

## Athens blast kills 1, misses minister

ATHENS (R) — A powerful explosion in central Athens killed one person on Tuesday and narrowly missed Greek Finance Minister Ioannis Palaiokrassas and his family, police said. Four people were injured in the blast just off Constitution Square, a popular tourist landmark. Mr. Palaiokrassas, who has helped implement a tough economic austerity plan, was cut slightly in the face, eyewitnesses said. A parked car was engulfed in flames and one side of the minister's silver Mercedes was badly damaged. His Mercedes had slowed down to turn when the blast occurred. The car was carrying the minister, his wife and daughter. Police said the attack was staged with two rocket-propelled grenades, often used by the leftist November 17 guerrilla group. The group has killed 18 people, several in bomb and rocket attacks, in Athens since 1975. Mr. Palaiokrassas escaped serious injury because of his car's special armour, police said.

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## Abu Jaber meets PLO official

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber Tuesday held talks with Mahmoud Abbas, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) executive committee. The meeting, which was attended by Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Ibrahim Izzeddine and Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Izzeddine Al Khatib Al Tami, discussed the conditions of Islamic holy sites in occupied Jerusalem and the latest developments in the region. Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim said following the meeting that the two sides discussed ways of enhancing Arab coordination in the Arab-Israeli peace talks and preparations for holding a coordination meeting in Damascus. Mr. Abbas later left for Moscow for talks on Russia's role in the peace process.

## Israelis, allies shell Lebanese villages

NABATIYEH, Lebanon (R) — Israeli and allied artillery gunners shelled villages in South Lebanon for a third consecutive day on Tuesday, security sources said. They said Israeli and South Lebanese Army (SLA) militia gunners shelled the edges of the town of Nabatiyeh, Ali Taher Hill and Kfar Roumane village outside Israel's self-styled "security zone" in the south. There was no report of casualties but the shelling started several fires in the area. One civilian was killed on Monday when SLA gunners fired shells around two villages outside the border enclave.

## King Fahd replaces Saudi security chief

RIYADH (AP) — King Fahd issued a royal decree Tuesday appointing a new chief of security for Saudi Arabia. The decree said the request of General Abdul Rahman Al Sheikh to be retired was accepted. It said staff Brigadier Ahmad Ben Mohammad Ben Abdullah Bilal, the liaison coordinator for the ministry, was promoted to staff general and appointed as the new director of public security. The decree gave no reason for the retirement.

## De Michelis faces corruption probe

VENICE, Italy (R) — Former Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis is to be investigated by magistrates probing alleged corruption involving public works contracts, the Italian news agency ANSA reported on Tuesday. The flamboyant De Michelis, foreign minister for three years until last month, was told he was under investigation by magistrates in the city of Venice.

## Velayati begins visit to Germany

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati Tuesday left Tehran for Germany, where he is expected to call for closer ties between the two countries. The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said that on his three-day visit, Mr. Velayati will discuss "bilateral issues and international developments" with Chancellor Helmut Kohl and other high-ranking officials.

## OIC condemns Hindu attempts

JEDDAH (AP) — The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Tuesday condemned attempts by Hindus to demolish the Ayodhya Babri mosque in India. A statement by the 47-member organisation expressed "profound concern" over reports that a graveyard adjoining the mosque was dug up by extremists to a depth of 3.6 metres. "The OIC feels that these threats and acts, constitute a serious violation of the religious rights of the Indian Muslims as well as their Islamic heritage," the statement said.

## Panic installed as prime minister

BELGRADE (R) — The federal parliament in Belgrade on Tuesday installed Milan Panic as the first prime minister of the new Yugoslavia, comprising Serbia and Montenegro.

# Baker due in Mideast soon to advance peace process

## Washington hopes to 'get ball rolling again'

Combined agency dispatches

PRESIDENT GEORGE Bush is sending Secretary of State James Baker to the Middle East "to get the ball rolling again" on peace talks now that Israel has a new prime minister.

Acting quickly after the formation of a new Israeli government, Mr. Bush directed Mr. Baker to fly to Israel this weekend on a trip that also will include visits to neighbouring Arab states.

Jordan said that Mr. Baker's trip should help get Arab-Israeli peace talks moving again.

"Any genuine and active and dynamic involvement in the peace process by the United States I think is helpful and useful to the acceleration of the movement of the peace process," Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif told Reuters. He said he welcomed the U.S. official's visit.

Israel's new finance minister said Mr. Baker was due in Israel Sunday. Abraham Shohat, finance minister in Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's new government, has said a chief priority is securing U.S. loan guarantees to help integrate Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union. "The fact the U.S. president and secretary of state called the prime minister immediately after the government was approved and the secretary of state will arrive here on Sunday has economic significance, not only political significance," he said on taking over from outgoing Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

Vacating at his summer home in Kennebunkport, Maine, Mr. Bush telephoned Mr. Rabin to congratulate him on the parliamentary approval Monday of his new centre left coalition government.

Both leaders agreed during the conversation "that it would be good for Secretary Baker to visit Israel and

its neighbours next week to get the ball rolling again," said White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater.

Mr. Bush also invited Mr. Rabin to visit Kennebunkport in early August, but no date was set, Mr. Fitzwater said. Mr. Bush has hosted a number of world leaders at his seaside home, including His Majesty King Hussein, but never before one from Israel.

Mr. Baker said it would be all right with the Bush administration if Mr. Rabin or Arab leaders came up with a formula for the talks that differs from the one he developed during six trips to the Middle East last year.

"I think that anytime Arab nations and Israel can sit down face-to-face and talk peace, it is a very good thing," Mr. Baker said, "whether it is done in the context of the peace process which we have developed or whether it is done outside of it. We should not exclude anything that can lead to peace."

At a news briefing, state Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler offered no specific comment when asked about Mr. Rabin's offer.

"We obviously look forward to working with the new government," she said.

Asked if senior State Department officials were planning to go to Israel to prepare for an early Rabin visit to the United States, Ms. Tutwiler replied, "There are no firm answers or firm decisions on any of that." She pointed out that any Rabin visit to the U.S. would be at the invitation of the White House.

The Middle East peace talks opened last October in Madrid but were suspended in May for Israel's election. Both sides agreed to hold the next round in Rome but no date has been set.

Mr. Rabin on Monday repeated the offer of all previous Israeli governments to meet Arab heads of state in occupied Jerusalem or in their countries.

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## Palestinians challenge Israeli premier to show seriousness by deeds

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Senior Palestinian leaders Tuesday challenged Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to show he was serious about Middle East peace efforts.

Faisal Al Hussein and Haidar Abdul Shafi told foreign journalists they wanted Mr. Rabin to stop confiscation of land and building of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories and free Palestinian prisoners as goodwill gestures.

In Tunis, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has called an enlarged meeting of the Palestinian leadership to work out its response to Mr. Rabin's peace overtures.

The top-level strategy meeting, which will include leaders of all PLO factions, will be held in Tunis next Tuesday, PLO officials said.

Bassam Abu Sharif, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, simultaneously blasted Mr. Rabin's proposals to breathe new life into the Middle East peace talks.

He criticised the Israeli leader for not taking up an offer to meet Mr. Arafat.

"Mr. Rabin failed to show courage and take the necessary step to react to Mr. Arafat's proposal that the two men should sit down to negotiate a political solution," Mr. Abu Sharif said.

Mr. Rabin excluded the PLO and Arafat from his offer to meet Arab leaders in their capitals or in occupied Jerusalem, Mr. Abu Sharif noted.

"He totally forgot the Palestinians' representatives."

The new Israeli leader said he wanted to meet members of the Palestinian-Jordanian peace team or the Palestinian subcommittee negotiating an interim self-rule arrangement for the 1.75 million Palestinians under Israeli rule.

Arab delegates, including Palestinians, resisted attempts by Mr. Rabin's predecessor, Yitzhak Shamir, to move negotiations to the Middle East insisting they be held on neutral ground.

Some Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories have said Mr. Rabin's speech had both positive and negative elements while others dismissed it as "not en-

couraging."

Mr. Abdul Shafi said he was discouraged by Mr. Rabin's insistence that Israel would never completely withdraw as it had from the Egyptian Sinai under a 1979 peace treaty with Cairo.

"We are committed to the peace process and we will go to the next round of talks in Rome with an open mind," he said.

In a speech before taking office in parliament on Monday, Mr. Rabin said he was eager to speed up peace efforts and proposed informal talks in occupied Jerusalem on the nine-month-old U.S.-brokered peace negotiations.

Mr. Hussein, overall chief of the Palestinian team to Middle East peace talks, said Mr. Rabin could call directly if he was serious about informally meeting Jordanian and Palestinian peace negotiators.

"We are in Jerusalem, and he can telephone us directly, not on television. We are not far away," Mr. Hussein told Israeli army radio in Hebrew.

Mr. Rabin favours freezing settlement activity in populated areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip but wants to continue building around Arab East Jerusalem and along the demarcation line with Jordan and Syria in areas he says are vital to "security."

Mr. Rabin's invitation to Arab peace negotiators to meet him in occupied Jerusalem was dismissed by Jordan and analysts close to the government called the invitation political acrobatics aimed at the Americans.

PLO spokesman Ahmad Abdul Rahman criticised Mr. Rabin for failing to mention U.N. land-for-peace resolutions on the basis of which the United States and Russia have sponsored the talks.

"The most important thing is not what Rabin said, but what he has not said, like a commitment to U.N. resolutions 242 and 338, and to the formula land for peace," Mr. Abdul Rahman said in Tunis.

Members of the PLO Executive Committee, the Central Committee of the mainstream Fatah movement, leaders of the

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(Left) Yitzhak Rabin addresses the Israeli parliament (Knesset) Monday. (Right) Shimon Peres and other members vote for Shevah Weiss as Knesset speaker

## Rabin upbeat on U.S. ties, peace moves

### No more funds for settlements, says Ben Eliezer

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Tuesday that a phone call from President George Bush left him hopeful Israel could improve relations with the United States and speed up negotiations with the Palestinians.

Mr. Rabin formally took over from Yitzhak Shamir on Tuesday, a day after winning parliamentary backing for his left-of-centre coalition and inviting Palestinians to informal talks in occupied Jerusalem to improve the atmosphere for formal negotiations.

Palestinian leaders on Tuesday left open the possibility they might accept the offer and said they saw positive signs in Mr. Rabin's pledge to step up autonomous negotiations.

But they criticised Mr. Rabin for not saying specifically he would give land for peace, and warned that Jewish settlements in the occupied territories remained

a key sticking point in the talks.

As if to allay their fears, Mr. Rabin's housing minister said Tuesday the government would not spend money building new Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

"Well, I can promise you something, no more money will go to new settlements," Benjamin Ben Eliezer said on Israel Television.

Mr. Ben Eliezer took over responsibility for the housing ministry from Ariel Sharon, the main architect of Israel's settlement drive in the occupied territories in the last two years.

"Mr. Sharon said at a handing over ceremony: 'There is no chance that my achievements go down the drain. There is such great activity, on such a tremendous scale. It can be slowed down, but it cannot be cancelled.'"

During Mr. Sharon's term as housing minister thousands of

homes were built for Jews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip where 100,000 Jews live among 1.75 million Palestinians.

A freeze on settlement construction in the occupied territories has been one of the demands of Arab states negotiating with Israel since Middle East peace talks were launched in Madrid last October.

President Bush has called the settlements an obstacle to peace.

Mr. Rabin has been intentionally vague on settlements. He has said he would curb "political" settlements in densely populated Arab areas but continue to expand settlements to bolster Israel's "security."

Mr. Ben Eliezer said Tuesday: "We will not create a reality where another 100,000 Jews will live (in the occupied territories) while we are at the start of a process that places a question mark behind the status of the territories," he said.

## Palestinian shot dead in West Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian was shot dead in the occupied West Bank late on Monday night. In the occupied Gaza Strip on Tuesday, a second truce brokered by prominent Palestinians was announced between Fatah supporters and adherents of the Hamas Islamic fundamentalist movement, Palestinians said. An initial truce fell apart on Saturday after one day. Palestinians said on Tuesday that an army undercover unit in the West Bank ambushed and shot dead Amad Shteiwi, 25. They said Mr. Shteiwi was shot as he hid an illegal pistol in an olive grove near Jaba village south of Jenin on Monday night. Military officials denied soldiers killed Mr. Shteiwi. Police said their investigation of the death was hampered because Arabs had snatched the young man's body from a local hospital. A companion who accompanied Mr. Shteiwi to the olive grove said he waited outside it and heard shots after Mr. Shteiwi entered. He went in, found Mr. Shteiwi shot dead and saw two men in black masks fleeing the scene.

## Jordan: Rabin's offer is cosmetic

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber Tuesday described Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's invitation to Arab leaders to visit occupied Jerusalem for informal talks on the peace process as an attempt to "beautify" Israel's image in the Arab World first and foremost.

Dr. Abu Jaber told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that there were several facts that should be remembered. "The peace process is continuing since October 1991. It is a very serious process and the Arab countries taking part in the process — Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan — are keen to bring this process to success."

"Statements are not the main element in the process" but progress in negotiations is the real test for any advance and we are waiting for these statements to be translated into deeds."

In reply to Mr. Rabin's stand that "security" settlements would be built in the occupied territories while "political" settlements would be frozen," the foreign minister said: "Real security can only be achieved by peace and not by increasing settlements or even by drawing differences between political and security settlements."

"Dr. Abu Jaber noted that U.S. Secretary of State would visit the region next week for talks on the peace process and ways of achieving progress in it."

On a coordination meeting which will be held in Damascus by the end of the month among Arab countries taking part in the Arab-Israeli negotiations, he said Jordan was not informed on whether the meeting would be attended only by the four Arab states negotiating with Israel or also by others.

Several coordination meetings have been held previously in Amman, Beirut and Damascus with the objective of coordinating Arab stands.

Mr. Abu Jaber said the Damascus meeting carries special weight because it is held following the Israeli elections and the recent developments in the Israeli arena.

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## Ghazali: Power struggle led to chaos

Life terms sought

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Before an empty dock in Algeria's trial of top Muslim fundamentalists, ex-Prime Minister Sidahmad Ghazali Tuesday accused ruthless power-seekers of taking the country into a year of violence and turmoil.

Without naming either the leaders of the now-outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) or ex-President Chadli Benjedid or those who backed them, Mr. Ghazali told the court:

"What was responsible was the battle of the chairs — the conflict of power — those who wanted to stay in power and those who wanted power by violence," Algiers Radio quoted him as saying. Foreign journalists are barred from court.

Mr. Ghazali, a surprise witness summoned only hours before he stood down as premier, said he warned FIS leaders Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj at a June 7

meeting last year:

"I have not come to stop people or dissolve a party, the FIS, but if this (violence in the streets) continues, the FIS will be destroyed," the radio added.

The bearded Madani, 61 and his fiery deputy Belhadj, 35, who led Algeria's most powerful opposition party, face charges including conspiracy against the state, punishable by execution. They and five FIS men accused of lesser crimes, carrying up to 20 years imprisonment, refuse to leave their cells. They say they are already condemned in what

they term a political trial.

Mr. Ghazali, former Parliament Speaker Abdul Aziz Belkhadem and Abdul Hamid Mehri, secretary-general of Algeria's former ruling party, the National Liberation Front, appeared Tuesday morning.

State radio cited military sources as saying that military prosecutor Belkacem Bonkhari would call for life imprisonment for Mr. Madani and Mr. Belhadj, and seek prison terms of 10 to 15 years for the other defendants. The tribunal is expected to recess while pondering its decision.

Alli Yahia Abdul Nour, a human-rights activist and one of the defence lawyers, said again that the military court has no jurisdiction to try civilians.

The decision Monday by the military tribunal in Blida, 50 kilometres south of Algiers, to

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## S. Korean firm to explore for oil, gas in Jordan

By Rana Sabbagh  
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan said Tuesday it had reached agreement with South Korean firm Hanbo Energy Co. Ltd. to explore for oil and natural gas in two areas close to the border with Iraq.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Ali Abul Ragheb said Hanbo Energy, a Hanbo Group unit, would spend JD 17 million over six years for exploration in two areas covering 22,000 square metres.

"We expect to sign the agreement on Wednesday after the cabinet endorses the draft accord in tonight (Tuesday's) session," he told Reuters.

The accord will take effect after Parliament ratifies it and King Hussein signs a royal decree.

The draft agreement gives Hanbo a 25-year production concession with the option of extending a further five years for oil and 10 years for natural gas in case of a find.

Once actual work starts, Hanbo will be the first foreign oil firm to return to Jordan after three Western companies pulled out over the past three years after unsuccessful drilling.

It will explore in the north-eastern Al Rishah area close to Jordan's frontiers with Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Syria and in the nearby Sirhan region.

Jordan, which has no significant proven reserves of its own, gets about 50,000 barrels of crude oil per day from Iraq. It produces only 275 barrels of oil a day from two exploratory oil wells in north-

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## Sudanese army captures rebels' main headquarters

Defence Forces retook the town, said Gen. Bashir. The capture occurred Monday, he added.

The Popular Defence Forces is an Islamic paramilitary government-armed outfit which has been fighting alongside the regular army.

In Nairobi, the SPLA confirmed that they had withdrawn from the town Monday. An SPLA statement said that government troops based in the regional capital of Juba left there on April 5 with the aim of capturing Torit. Juba, the government's main stronghold in the south, is 120 kilometres north west of Torit.

They have sustained more than 1,500 killed and great material losses" to reach Torit, the statement said. It described the

torit now has joined the liberated areas of the homeland with the national banners flying high, after troops and Popular

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## Iraq offers to defuse crisis with U.N.

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq's minister of agriculture, offering to defuse a row with U.N. weapons inspectors, has invited independent observers to visit his ministry to prove that Baghdad has nothing to hide.

Abdul Wahab Mahmoud Al Sabbagh demanded during a news conference later Monday that the observers should end their vigil outside the ministry.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted him as inviting humanitarian organisations and Muslim and Christian clerics "from all sects... to visit the ministry, building and examine all the facts any time they like to see the size of distortion and deceit."

Mr. Sabbagh said Iraq would not allow the U.N. team to inspect the ministry.

"The presence of the U.N. inspection team stationed outside the ministry building is considered an interference in Iraq's

affairs and sovereignty, as the ministry is a civilian installation and one of Iraq's symbols of sovereignty."

"The team's allegations are void and its claims that the building... contains material and documents related to Security Council Resolution 687 demands are groundless," Mr. Sabbagh said.

The latest confrontation between Iraq and the Security Council started on July 5 when a group of weapons inspectors, searching for documentation on ballistic missiles, was refused entry to the ministry.

A small U.N. team has been keeping vigil ever since. Its leader, U.S. Army Major Karen Janzen, has left Iraq for New York and was expected to brief reporters on Tuesday.

The Security Council is to call in Iraq's charge d'affaires to insist again that U.N. inspectors be allowed to go into the agriculture

ministry.

The Security Council a week ago demanded that Iraq immediately permit the inspectors to enter the premises and at that time also called in Iraq's charge d'affaires, Dr. Samir Al Mina.

Diplomats admit there is little more the council, also preoccupied with Yugoslavia, South Africa and Cyprus, can do at this stage except threaten force, an action that is not yet contemplated.

Monday's protest to Iraqi envoys by Security Council President Jose Luis Jesus of Cape Verde was a low-key event with diplomats briefing reporters and no official council announcement.

U.N. inspectors probing Iraq's nuclear capabilities flew Tuesday to Baghdad as chemical, biological and missile experts maintained their vigil outside the ministry for 10th day Tuesday.





Casualties of the Somali civil war lay outside law and order and continued fighting have made hospitals awaiting urgent help, but the absence of relief work almost impossible.

## Getting aid to starving Somalis is high-risk venture

HOSINGO, Somalia (AP) — It was already noon on a hot and dusty day, and Andrea Schiess of the Red Cross was in a hurry to get his convoy of three food-laden trucks moving. He was delayed at gunpoint by men seeking food and by others with grievances.

Mr. Schiess, a 40-year-old Swiss, was escorting 29 tonnes of food to drought and war victims in Somalia, part of the biggest relief programme ever launched by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The project has been fraught with danger and frustration in a nomadic, desert land where the only rule of law is that there is no law.

Peter Fuchs, the Geneva-based director general of the Red Cross, recently called the plight of Somalia's starving people "one of the worst situations I have ever seen."

It is worse, he said, than in the former Yugoslav republics. But while the United States, the United Nations, the European Community and others fret about war and suffering in the Balkan states, far less heed is paid to the Horn of Africa nation.

Mr. Fuchs said last week that one-half million people will die in coming weeks unless international aid to Somalia is doubled immediately.

The death toll already is in the tens of thousands. But while the United States, the United Nations, the European Community and the world in general fret about war and suffering in the Balkan states, far less heed is paid to this Horn of Africa nation and its 8.4 million people. The British Red Cross on Monday made a fresh appeal for aid for

Somalia's "forgotten catastrophe."

The Red Cross is spending more than one-fourth of its total \$500 million aid budget on Somalia this year, feeding 500,000 people twice a day in makeshift kitchens throughout the country.

Mr. Schiess, a veteran of 18 months of humanitarian work in Afghanistan, was encountering the problems, risks and frustrations involved in the massive effort.

His trucks had moved only a few hundred metres inside Somalia from the Kenyan border town of Liboi when they were stopped by a thin, ragged man waving an AK-47 assault rifle.

Menacingly, he demanded a bag of rice.

Mr. Schiess took cover behind a nearby tree until two armed security guards accompanying the convoy subdued the gunman in a brief struggle.

No one was hurt and Mr. Schiess was just about to get back into his truck when another man showed up with four armed bodyguards. He wanted to accompany the convoy to Hosingo, 150 kilometres away.

"Tell him I am not going to take a whole army," Mr. Schiess told his Somalia field officer, Mohammed Ugas Mahmud. "Two body guards only or I go back."

Meanwhile, a Somali truck driver showed up demanding compensation for a vehicle damaged earlier while hauling food for the Red Cross. He had a rusty shotgun slung on his shoulder. Two companions carried AK-47s.

"Tell him I'll be here with the money tomorrow," Mr. Schiess said.

"He said he wants it now," Mahmud interpreted. "It has been 13 days since the accident."

"Yes, but I have been busy with other things," Mr. Schiess replied.

Still more gunman appeared out of the bush and soon everyone was arguing in the Somali language but Mr. Schiess, who does not understand it.

Finally, the truck driver went away mollified and the convoy rolled, 45 minutes late.

"That's the least that can happen," Mr. Mahmud sighed. Worse has happened.

Since the United Somali Congress (USC) ousted President Mohammad Siad Barre from the capital of Mogadishu in January 1991, four relief workers have been killed and several others injured in the subsequent anarchy that has been Somalia carved up into clan fiefdoms. Two of the dead were Red Cross personnel.

Since February, the Red Cross has trucked 2,000 tonnes of food into southwest Somalia from Kenya. More than 60,000 tonnes have been delivered to the rest of the country by sea and air.

The United Nations began food deliveries in May but so far has been able to get only 15 tonnes into Mogadishu and the area immediately surrounding the capital.

Virtually every one has been shipped at risk. Truck convoys have been attacked, warehouses looted, airplanes hijacked and relief ships shelled.

"Rarely have our convoys arrived at their destinations intact," Mr. Schiess said.

one of several units that defected to the Afghan guerrillas in April, paving the way for the capture of Kabul and the fall of the communist government after 14 years of civil war.

Some Mujahideen guerrillas object to the presence of the turbaned troops in the capital. There have been frequent clashes between the former communist divisions and rival guerrilla factions, including a rocket and artillery exchange on July 4 that killed at least 100 people and wounded more than 300 others in Kabul.

Government troops appeared to be in complete control of the Charayy Sebati area by noon and the airport road was open.

The fighting erupted about 8.30 a.m. at the Charayy Sebati AMA circle, about one kilometre south of the airport.

Nearby Public Health Ministry and supreme court buildings were evacuated as a precaution.

The 53rd division, commanded by General Rasheed Dostum, is

## U.N. council says Cyprus talks in crucial phase

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council on Monday urged Cypriot leaders at their forthcoming U.N. talks to reach a solution, saying that the meetings represented a "determining phase" in the 18-year-old debate on reuniting the island.

Cypriot President George Vassiliou and Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş on Wednesday began another round of talks with Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, with pressure on both sides to make compromises that will end the virtual partition of the island.

The council, in a statement read at a formal meeting, said it noted with satisfaction acceptance by both leaders to stay in New York "for such reasonable duration as may be necessary to complete the work."

"The council considers that the forthcoming meetings represent a determining phase in the secretary-general's effort and calls on both leaders to be ready to take the necessary decisions to reach agreement on each of the issues," said the statement read by council president Jose Luis Jesus, Cape Verde's ambassador.

Cyprus has been partitioned since 1974 when troops from Turkey occupied the north of the island after a short-lived coup in Nicosia engineered by the military junta the ruling Greece.

The two sides are due to negotiate separately with Dr. Ghali on displaced people and how much of the island's territory would be included in a Turkish-Cypriot province of a future federal state.

If these hurdles are passed they will meet face to face to discuss the shape of any future federal government and security for the Turkish-Cypriot population that might include some Turkish troops remaining on Cyprus.

A U.N. peacekeeping force, now about 2,150 strong, has been stationed in Cyprus since 1974. Several troops contributing states have threatened to end their participation and Dr. Ghali has said the forces could best be used elsewhere if the negotiations continued to founder.

The council statement said that if the joint sessions between Mr. Vassiliou and Mr. Denktaş went well, the United Nations would convene an international high-level meeting to conclude a final peace plan for the island.

### MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Bombs rock beach resorts in north Lebanon

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (R) — Bomb blasts rocked two beach resorts in northern Lebanon at dawn on Tuesday, wounding two people and wrecking five cars, security sources said. They said two bombs blew up at about the same time on Naahoura and Naji beaches just south of the port of Tripoli. The motive behind the attacks was not immediately known.

#### Iran seizes large haul of opium

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian police seized 813 kilograms of opium in a series of raids in the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchistan, the Iranian news agency IRNA said on Tuesday. IRNA said 86 smugglers were arrested in the operation carried out in the past few days. Sistan and Baluchistan lies on a major drug supply route from Afghanistan to Europe.

#### Tremor shakes eastern Turkey

ANKARA (R) — An earthquake measuring 5.3 on the open-ended Richter scale shook Turkey's eastern region on Tuesday, damaged buildings but caused no casualties, Anatolian news agency said. The hardest hit was the town of Hinis in Erzurum province several houses in the town were damaged. In March, a strong earthquake killed about 500 people in Erzurum city, 200 kilometres west of Erzurum.

#### Shah's jailed brother dies of heart attack

TEHRAN (R) — Hamid Reza Pahlavi, half-brother of the late Shah of Iran, died of a heart attack while serving a life jail sentence, a newspaper said on Tuesday. Jomhuri Eslami said Pahlavi died in Tehran hospital on Monday night. He was in his mid-50s. A black sheep in the royal family and a heavy opium smoker, Pahlavi was virtually cast out of the court before the Islamic revolution which overthrew Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi in 1979. He was arrested shortly afterwards on drug charges and received a life sentence which he served in Tehran's Evin prison.

#### Hamadi brothers now in same prison

SAARBRUECKEN, Germany (R) — Two Lebanese brothers jailed in Germany for hijacking and kidnapping have been allowed to serve their sentence in the same prison, the Saar state government said Monday. Mohammad Ali Hamadi, serving a life sentence for hijacking in the state of Hesse, was brought to Saarbrücken jail in the western state of Saar, where his brother Abbas is serving a 13-year term for kidnapping. The German government had promised to consider an easing of the brother's prison conditions if two German hostages held by the Hamadi family in Lebanon were freed. "As the hostages were freed on June 17 and no other considerations stood in the way of bringing them together, he wish of the Hamadi brothers to be brought together was fulfilled today," The Saar justice ministry said in a statement. A spokeswoman said two were in separate cells but she refused to disclose whether their cells were close together.

#### Lebanon to set up financial market

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon began steps towards establishing a financial market for trading stocks and commodities on Monday in an effort to revive its war-torn economy. Finance Minister Asad Diab said after the first meeting of a committee on the creation of a market that it would give top priority to meeting international standards. He said the committee would explore establishing 24-hour trading, a commodities exchange and delivery market, and duty free trading zones. Beirut, the business capital of the Middle East in the early 1970s, is struggling to control inflation and attract investment after 15 years of civil war that devastated its economy.

## Gunmen, police clash in Istanbul

ISTANBUL (R) — Gunmen wounded a policeman and attackers hurled firebombs at business targets in Istanbul on Tuesday after police killed two leftist militants overnight.

Police said the policeman was shot in the head on his way to work in the busy Caglayan area and was in serious condition.

A caller to Cumhuriyet newspaper claimed responsibility on behalf of the far-left Dev-Sol (Revolutionary Left) group.

The caller said the attack was to avenge the deaths of 12 militants in police raids in Istanbul and Ankara shortly before U.S. President George Bush visited Turkey a year ago.

A man and a woman said to belong to Dev-Sol were killed in a gunbattle on Monday night when police stormed their flat in Kasimpasa district on the European side of Istanbul.

Security officials said the militants had opened fire when police told them to surrender and a policeman was slightly injured. Police seized guns, ammunition and documents.

Early on Tuesday, attackers threw petrol bombs at offices of KOC American Bank, Garanti Bank and the Istanbul-based industrial group Borusan. No damage was reported.

Petrol bomb attacks on three other bank offices in Istanbul on Monday night caused damage, but no casualties.

They set off small fires at branches of state-owned Ziraat Bank and private Akbank in the waterfront Kumkapi district near the old city. A branch of a bank was also hit.

On Monday, Dev-Sol said it was behind the wounding of a deputy police commissioner in Istanbul. A little-known left-wing group, the Red Army, also claimed the shooting.

Dev-Sol, Turkey's deadliest urban guerrilla organisation, claimed the killings of two Americans last year and has frequently attacked Turkish security officials.

## Iraq says new Kurdish government illegal

BAGHDAD (R) — Baghdad said on Monday the establishment of an autonomous Kurdish government in northern Iraq violated the country's constitution.

"All actions and decisions of this council are non-binding... because they are illegal and none of its members has any legal status as their appointments were contrary to the constitution," the Iraqi News Agency quoted an official source at the Iraqi National Assembly as saying.

Rebel Kurds held the region's first free elections in May. Earlier this month they formed a 17-member executive council headed by Fouad Ma'soum of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), one of the two main Kurdish parties who share equal seats in the new parliament.

London-based Arabic newspapers said the PUK, led by Jalal Talabani, has seven portfolios in the new government and Masoud Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) has six ministries.

The communists, the pro-Iran Hizbollah Kurdish group each got one ministerial post, and the Christians took two posts.

The Iraqi official said the constitution stressed the integrity of Iraq's territory and that the Revolution Command Council, headed by President Saddam Hussein, and the National Assembly have the sole power of legislation.

Mr. Ma'soum, in his first statement since forming the Kurdish government, said Iraqi Kurdistan would always be part of Iraq.

Kurdish sources were quoted as saying the new government had no defence or foreign ministers, underlining that it sought autonomy, not independence.

The government has granted the Kurds limited autonomy under the rule of a pro-Baghdad Kurdish executive council elected under central government supervision.

## British MPs condemn Iranian crackdown

LONDON (Agencies) — British members of parliament (MPs) on Tuesday joined colleagues in the United States and Europe in condemning an Iranian crackdown on dissidents and called for the imposition of a U.N. oil and arms embargo.

Some 230 British MPs from all parties signed a statement protesting against an Iranian air raid in April on a resistance base inside Iraqi territory. It also expressed support for the National Council of Resistance of Iran.

Similar statements have been issued in the past month by members of the U.S. House of Representatives, the European Parliament and the Canadian and Italian parliaments. They urge the United Nations Security Council to adopt a "resolute stance" towards Iran and impose an oil and arms embargo.

"What we are particularly concerned about is the attempt by the Iranian regime to portray themselves as moderate when all the evidence suggests in fact that it is an even more brutal regime than the Khomenei regime," Win Griffiths, one of the British petition organisers, told a news conference.

At least eight people were reported to have been hanged for their part in Iran's worst riots in April and May. President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani ordered security forces to crack down on dissent to deter further violence.

Mr. Griffiths (Labour) and Anthony Coombs (Conservative) said at the press briefing that 1,500 parliamentarians, including the majority of the U.S. congressmen, 154 members of the European Parliament, 130 Canadian parliamentarians and 377 Italian parliamentarians have expressed in unison their support for the Iranian resistance and condemned the crimes of the regime in Tehran.

## High-tech smugglers held in Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait border police have arrested a gang of Iraqi smugglers who used night vision goggles, sophisticated compasses and heavy arms to get their cargoes of weapons, liquor and drugs across the demilitarised zone between the two countries.

The arrest of the 12-member gang is the latest of a series of violent incidents and coincided with a call by the prime minister, Sheikh Saad Abdullah Al Sabah, for a tougher penal code and other measures to tighten security.

The Interior Ministry broadcast a special video on Kuwait Television to show the booty of weapons, alcohol, drugs, Iraqi money, stolen cars and mobile phones found in a number of gang hideouts.

The demilitarised zone between Kuwait and Iraq is infested with a great number of smugglers who are encouraged by the Iraqi regime. "Colonel Badr Al Mulla, a head of the border department, told the Kuwait News Agency.

The 12 were arrested after a shootout near a border market in the demilitarised zone that has flourished since the Gulf war. The 15-kilometre wide zone is controlled by the United Nations and weapons are banned, so border patrol forces cannot give chase.

But one man captured in a shootout before the vehicle he was using reached the market told police about a number of hideouts in Kuwait. More arrests are expected.

The Interior Ministry said those arrested will be charged with robbery, weapons possession, drug dealing and selling alcohol.

Col. Mulla called the constant infiltration by Iraqis a threat to national security.

Most, however, are supplying the Kuwaiti market with goods that are in short supply and high demand in the emirate.

The nomadic bedouins in the border region have long been proficient at smuggling liquor into both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Since Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait they added weapons to their inventory, as Kuwaitis jittery about the chances of another Iraqi incursion want to keep a small arsenal at home.

The proliferation of weapons has made violent crimes an almost daily occurrence.

On Friday Iranian Shiite Muslim cleric Ahmad Ghulani, Fazi sustained severe injuries when a hand grenade went off in his car, while he was waiting at a traffic light.

The Interior Ministry said it was investigating whether Sheikh Fazi had the grenade in the car prior to the explosion.

Four injured Shiite Muslims were also injured Friday when gunmen opened fire on them outside a prayer hall.

Sheikh Saad told a group of visiting Arab journalists he expected "some security problems like those explosions which happened (a short time ago)... maybe some similar events will happen."

"In my opinion we have won the battle but we haven't won the war," Sheikh Saad said.

Asked whether Iraq was behind the recent wave of attacks, he replied: "Iraq has an interest in destabilisation, whether there is evidence or not, and whether it is behind these incidents directly or indirectly it will count any incident causing worry among (Kuwaiti) citizens in its favour."

## Rabin upbeat

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Bush told Rabin he would dispatch Mr. Baker to the Middle East next week to get peace talks moving again. He also invited Mr. Rabin for talks in the United States in early August.

At the handover Mr. Shamir, 76, wished Mr. Rabin well but called on him not to reverse the policies pursued by his government — the most right-wing in Israeli history.

Emphasising the change in direction, new Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told army radio Mr. Rabin's goal of reaching an interim peace accord with the Palestinians in nine months was feasible.

"Nine months is a lot of time," Mr. Peres said. "Just like 10 years can sometimes be a waste of time — indeed the plan was to waste 10 years."

Mr. Shamir was quoted in a newspaper interview immediately after his defeat as saying he had wanted to drag out peace talks for a decade while pouring Jewish settlers into the occupied territories.

## Fighting in Kabul closes airport road

KABUL (R) — The attempted assassination of an Afghan general sparked a firefight along the airport road in Kabul on Tuesday morning, killing at least three civilians and closing the road for more than an hour.

General Abdul Ghafur Faryabi, acting commander of the government's 53rd division troops in Kabul, was fired upon while driving from the airport into the city.

A 53rd division spokesman said the general's car was not hit but that an escort vehicle was struck by small arms fire, wounding three people.

"A group of terrorists tried to bring disorder to the city by firing upon army vehicles," said General Ali Mohammad Suleiman at the scene several hours after the incident.

"We killed two terrorists in the fighting," he added.

Gen. Suleiman said the attackers had not been identified but that an investigation was under way.

There were conflicting casualty reports from the incident, ranging from two to 10 dead.

Reporters confirmed at least three dead at the scene, all civilians.

The fighting erupted about 8.30 a.m. at the Charayy Sebati AMA circle, about one kilometre south of the airport.

Nearby Public Health Ministry and supreme court buildings were evacuated as a precaution.

The 53rd division, commanded by General Rasheed Dostum, is

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO  
18:00 Le Monde est à vous  
18:15 News in French  
18:30 Intertopique  
19:30 News in Hebrew  
20:00 News in Arabic  
20:30 Saved by the Bell  
21:00 Wednesday forum  
21:30 Man of the People  
22:00 News in English  
22:30 TBI We Meet Again

### PRAYER TIMES

6:40 Fajr  
12:43 (Sunrise) Dhur  
12:54 Dhur  
16:22 'Asr  
19:49 Maghreb  
21:22 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 623785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Turkmen Church Tel. 622366

### Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 625453

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775561

St. Epiphanius Church Tel. 771751

Assam International Church Tel. 683326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811225

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932

Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

### WEATHER

Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aquila winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 17/32

Aqaba 25/38

Dead Sea 16/35

Jordan Valley 23/37

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 40. Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 24 per cent.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Saleh Al Sa'oud 649028  
Dr. Arafat Al Ashhab 602507  
Dr. Hanna Mansour 745304  
Dr. Riza Abu Zein 894285  
First pharmacy 661912  
Ferdous pharmacy 778336  
Al Asama pharmacy 637055  
Nabulwah pharmacy 625072  
Al Salem pharmacy 656730  
Yasoub pharmacy 644945  
Shamsal pharmacy 637660

#### IRBID:

Dr. Mohammad Al Hala (—)  
Al Shama pharmacy (275825)

#### ZARQA:

Dr. Tariq Hijawi (—)  
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

### Civil Defence Department

661131  
Civil Defence Emergency 630341  
Rescue Police 199, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade 891226  
Blood Bank 775121  
Highway Police 843402  
Traffic Police 896390  
Public Security Department 630321  
Prison Complaints 605800  
Prison Complaints 661176  
Water and Sewerage 897467  
Complaints 897467  
Amman Municipality 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121  
Overseas Calls 010230  
Central Amman Telephone 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101  
Jordan Television 771111  
Radio Jordan 774111  
Water Authority 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615  
Electric Power Company 636351  
RJ Flight Information 08-33200  
Queens Alia Int. Airport 08-33200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hamid Medical Centre 81381332  
Khalifah Maternity, J. Amn 6442816  
Khalifah Maternity, J. Amn 6444102  
Jahat Amman Maternity 642362  
Mallat, J. Amman 650140  
Palestine, Shamsal 6647104  
Shamsal Hospital 669131  
Al-Madina Hospital 843845  
The Islamic Relief 66122751  
Al-Ahli, Abid 6641646  
Jahat, Al-Madina 7771813  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 77511126  
Army, Marfa 89161115  
Queen Alia Hospital 6224050  
Amal Hospital 674135

#### ZARQA:

Zarqa Gov. Hospital (09)883323  
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900540  
Jahat Hospital (09)986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)999990

#### IRBID:

Pharmas Boma Hospital 60223555  
Greek Catholic Hospital 60222225  
Be Al-Nadwa Hospital 60247100

#### AQABA:

Pharmas Boma Hospital (09)914111</



## Seminar studies recession, jobless, returnees tackled

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-day seminar on immigrant returnees Tuesday reviewed a working paper about the ongoing economic restructuring programme agreed on between Jordan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to prop up the national economy.

The programme, presented by Dr. Fahd Al Fanek, comprehensive plan for addressing problems in all aspects of Jordanian socio-economic life but is rather a tool for addressing the main imbalances in Jordan's financial and economic circumstances, including its external debt burden.

The initial stages of this programme, the working paper noted, were directed at achieving economic growth in real terms. For this reason the government insisted on linking the programme not only with the IMF but also with the World Bank, the paper added.

According to this programme, the Kingdom took steps to stem imports and encourage exports, but can do nothing about the unemployment problem.

The second paper, reviewed at the meeting Tuesday and presented by Dr. Ahmad Atwan, dealt with the same economic restructuring programme until 1993. Dr. Atwan said that the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) has been training Jordanians in various trades to replace non-Jordanians and to help stabilise the economy, which has been hit by the continued drain of

funds of non-Jordanians returning to their home.

Dr. Atwan, who is VTC director general, said that training centres were taking care of the unemployment problem by providing the local labour market with skilled manpower and workers who have started their own businesses.

A working paper presented by Labour Ministry under secretary Saleh Tarawneh tackled the question of unemployment in Jordan since the 1950s and the slow economic growth in the country in the late 1980s.

The paper noted that the economic recession was caused by the return of thousands of Jordanian workers, the stop of financial aid from Arab countries in the wake of the Gulf crisis and the negative impact of the general recession, which has affected the Arab region since the late 1980s.

The paper offered some ideas for dealing with the unemployment problem mainly through promoting vocational training.

The seminar, which was opened Monday under the chairmanship of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, is organised in cooperation with the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

In all, the participants were scheduled to deal with 10 working papers on topics ranging from unemployment to absorbing returnees into the national economy.

## By-election committee sets up voting centres and counters

AMMAN (J.T.) — A government-appointed committee to prepare for by-elections in the sixth district (Madaba-Dhiban area) has embarked on arrangements for the elections to be conducted on August 18.

Committee Chairman Mislak Al Tarawneh said that his committee has already assigned 33 centres for casting ballots and appointed 33 sub-committees to count the votes.

Nomination of candidates to run for the seat vacated by the death of Ahmad Azadeh in the sixth constituency, will begin on July 25 and will last for three days, noted Mr. Tarawneh.

Mr. Tarawneh called on those wishing to run for the election to refrain from conducting any campaign until they have been formally nominated and registered as candidates.

He said that the 33,874 of people are eligible to cast ballots. Meanwhile, the head of committee to hold elections in the fourth constituency, Hashem Al Waked, said Tuesday that the local press and the official gazette will soon publish the locations of

voting centres. Mr. Waked said that he expected 40 voting centres to be named and assigned to the task.

There will be an official announcement of the centres that will be distributing voter cards before the Aug. 18 elections, he added.

Mr. Waked noted that committees to supervise the distribution of cards will be set up on July 20 and are expected to continue their work until Aug. 11.

Voters in the fourth constituency will be electing a replacement for Nayef Al Hadid, who passed away early in July. According to Mr. Waked, said that the district governors of Sahab, Jizah and Musqar fall within the fourth constituency and their inhabitants are eligible to vote in the coming elections.

The two committees were formed by the Interior Ministry Monday and their members were sworn in before Interior Minister Jawdat Al Shoul, who announced that the coming by-elections will be conducted in a free and fair manner similar to the national elections of 1989.

## Guidelines to amend 1966 law on charities in the works

AMMAN (Petra) — The Executive Council of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) has decided to set up a special committee to draw up general guidelines for amending the 1966 Jordanian law on charitable societies.

A statement said that it is necessary to upgrade the law so that it can cater to the developments in voluntary and charitable work and to ensure better organisation and handling of the various societies finances and other resources.

The statement said that the amendments will take into account the possibilities of investments in income-generating projects. It said that for the committee to draw up the proposals for amendments will be chaired by Abdullah Khatib, GUVS executive president and will include several senior GUVS officials and representatives of various charitable and voluntary unions in the Kingdom.

GUVS, the umbrella for all voluntary and charitable organisations operating in the Kingdom, offers financial assistance to different charitable unions to help them carry out their humanitarian projects.

The statement noted that to date, GUVS arranged and created jobs for 4,500 people to help ease Jordan's unemployment. It has also set up centres for the rehabilitation of handicapped children among which was the Multi-Disabilities Rehabilitation Centre at Yajouz, which has completed in 1990. That centre, the statement noted, offers services to 100 handicapped children and has cost GUVS JD400,000 to build.

One of the major projects undertaken by GUVS is the Al Amal Cancer Centre, which is being set up at the Jordan University Hospital, said the statement. It noted that the project is expected to be ready for occupancy by the middle of next year.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### King congratulates France

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent Tuesday a cable to French President Francois Mitterrand to congratulate him on his country's national day. The King said in his cable: "On the occasion of the national day of France, I am delighted to send you the best wishes in my name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government. I would like also to greet your courageous leadership and to express my wishes that the principles of the French revolution — equality, fraternity and freedom — would prevail and justice would be achieved in the world."

#### Education delegation visits Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR (Petra) — A delegation from the Ministry of Higher Education is currently on a visit to Malaysia to hold talks with officials on enhancing relations between the two countries. Higher Education Minister Awad Khatib, who is heading the delegation, said he expressed at meetings with senior Malaysian officials Jordan's readiness to provide Malaysia with the needed Jordanian expertise.

## Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions reviews labour solidarity in region

AMMAN (J.T.) — The challenges impeding the Arab World's labour movements and cooperation among its labour unions were reviewed here Tuesday by the secretary general of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions, Khaled Shreim, and the visiting president of the International Federation of Arab Workers Hassan Jimam.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the two men discussed ways of confronting dangers to Arab countries implementing resolutions taken by the federation's recent emergency meeting and ways to bolster labour union freedoms.

Mr. Jimam made a statement to Petra later, noting his current visit to Jordan was aimed also at examining the progress in the labour movement.

The recent federation

emergency meeting, held in Casablanca, passed several decisions designed to achieve cohesion and solidarity among the labour unions of the Arab World and to coordinate their social, economic and political status in their own countries, noted Mr. Jimam.

In the coming few months, the constitutional committees of the Arab Federation will embark on the first steps towards laying the foundation for a united code for the development of the federation's activities serving all Arab labour unions, said Mr. Jimam.

The committees are planning to introduce paragraphs in the planned draft aimed at organising seminars designed to promote the role of Arab women in development and ensuring their unions rights.

In September, this year, he added, a committee on Palestinian labourers will be held in Damascus, to back the Palestinian Arab workers and their struggle for freedom.

Meanwhile, Mr. Shreim met here Tuesday with a visiting team representing Egyptian labour unions to discuss labour-related affairs.

The head of the Egyptian group said the visit aimed at bolstering Egyptian-Jordanian cooperation in labour-related matters.

Mr. Shreim had another meeting with members of the executive board of the Palestinian Labour Federation to discuss ways of extending assistance to the intifada and helping the Palestinian workers under Israeli rule.

## Iraqis sell personal belongings and Baghdad trinkets to earn a living

By Laney Salisbury and Samir Burhoom  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Mohammad rests on the edge of an opened suitcase quietly selling second-hand shorts and shirts. A woman, in a billowy black shroud that falls to her feet, sits in the ruins of a building peddling Baghdad bric-a-brac.

Elsewhere in Amman, outside five-star hotels and in front of shops, Iraqis hawk watches. A few beg or resort to others means to make a living.

"They are losing their dignity," said a relief official.

The traders are among scores of Iraqis selling their

personal belongings and goods in Jordan to support families in Baghdad where inflation runs rampant and government-subsidised food is scarce.

Although few Iraqis would talk at length, it appears they make the 12-hour taxi or 16-hour bus journey to Jordan to sell cheap Baghdad goods to buy food to take back home.

"Baghdad has everything. The problem is that things are too expensive," a taxi driver at the main bus station in Amman said, adding that he takes businessmen and visitors from Iraq to Jordan once every three to seven days. About 2,600 Iraqis daily travel through the Ruweished border

post to Amman, a 50 Iraqi dinar or JD1.60 bus ride.

In the squalid heat of downtown, Iraqis crouch in a tip of shade along King Talal Street, peddling anything from sneakers to decorations. One woman, with large calloused hands, lines up embroidered slippers, prayer beads and red pans — cheap items bought in Baghdad.

It's her fourth trip to Amman and she plans to stay one week "if they (Jordanians) let me stay in this spot," she said.

A few minutes later, the woman and four others were shoed away by a shopkeeper, a sector of society that has complained of unfair competition from illegal traders.

A block from Al Hussein Mosque, near the spice stalls and nut sacks, an Iraqi in a white dishdasha displays two worn watches and a few plastic jewels. On his last visit, his fifth, he claims that border police confiscated 2,000 Iraqi dinars worth of goods — perhaps victims of the embargo.

"I don't know why they took the money" he said. "I don't think I did anything wrong." The journey is worth the risk of confiscation.

According to Father Mousa Adeli of the Christian relief group Caritas International, 80 per cent of Iraq's 18 million people go hungry. Inflation is

also rising. JD1,000 now equals 30 Iraqi dinars, compared to five before the war.

A bag of flour costs 150 Iraqi dinars, compared to five not too long ago.

Father Adeli, who recently returned from Iraq, said that of the about 15,000 Iraqi "tourists" in Jordan, about 5 per cent are wealthy, using Jordan as a way station until visas to America, Britain and Australia are approved.

Others, however, use Jordan as the only route to relief. Caritas, for example, offers food, money for rooms and medical supplies.

But with the continuing embargo on Iraq following its Aug. 1990 invasion of Kuwait, few Iraqis appear ready to return home for good.

As one Iraqi who once owned a small business in Kuwait said, "I have nothing left. I went to Baghdad, found nowhere to work, could not afford anything. Then we came to Jordan."

With his last dinar at the cash register of a cheap hotel, the father of two added: "I do not now what to do now — or where to go."

## Minister: No grounds to take legal action against company that allegedly sold AIDS-infected plasma in 1986

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan will not take any legal action against an Austrian company for allegedly selling AIDS-infected plasma to Jordan in 1986.

Minister of Health Dr. Aref Bataineh told the Jordan Times on Tuesday that there were no legal grounds for suing the company which was closed down by the Austrian authorities early this month.

Plasma Pharm Sera, a pharmaceutical company, is facing a law suit by the Austrian government for exporting 700 units of plasma without notifying the authorities. Five hundred units were sold to Portugal while 200 units were exported to Jordan. The Austrian authorities say the blood units contained the AIDS virus.

Dr. Bataineh said his ministry's tests showed that the shipment was free of the sexually-transmitted virus.

Ten Jordanians, who regularly receive blood transfusions, have contracted AIDS since 1986 but Dr. Bataineh said all the victims received blood outside the country and might have contracted the disease abroad. Two of the patients have died.

All the patients had suffered from hemophilia, excessive bleeding caused by the absence of a substance necessary for blood clotting.

Only three cases of AIDS were reported in Jordan this year, bringing the total number of registered AIDS cases in the country to 74.

"Relatively speaking," says Dr. Samir Kharabsheh, director of the Communicable Diseases Department at the Ministry of Health, "this is a small number." But, he agrees that the country is not doing enough to raise public awareness of the killer disease and means of guarding against it.

The Ministry of Health educates its personnel on the disease and ways to counter its spread. Through them, the information is passed to the public, said Dr. Kharabsheh. The minister, however, has not launched any



public awareness campaign on a large scale or used the traditional media outlets to educate citizens on protective measures or to warn them about the dangers of the disease.

The lack of such an effort might be attributed to the belief that "this is a sensitive issue. But this is a wrong attitude," Dr. Kharabsheh said.

Dr. Kharabsheh said that Jordan takes all the necessary precautions to protect its citizens from the disease. He said that all imported blood is tested for AIDS before it is used in the country and the Blood Bank also tests Jordanian citizens for the

disease before they are allowed to donate blood.

According to Dr. Kharabsheh, all foreign nationals who visit the country for more than one month are requested to take the AIDS test.

But Jordan does not seem to be implementing this policy. Four foreign nationals interviewed by the Jordan Times said they were not asked to take the AIDS test when they were granted visas to visit the country.

This policy goes against the recommendation of the World Health Organisation (WHO), which considers such requirements discriminatory.

## Princess Basma visits Dibe'en Camp

JERASH (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma called Tuesday at the fifth Arab gathering of 300 girl guides currently held in Dibe'en Camp.

Princess Basma visited at the camp an exhibition of educational facilities and handicrafts where she was familiarised with the works of the girl guides. Princess Basma visited also a pavilion displaying folkloric costumes representing various parts of the Kingdom.

Head of the meeting Abia Abu Nuwar delivered an address in which she briefed Princess Basma on the objectives of the gathering. She said the gathering aims to achieve interaction between Jordanian and Arab guides. Girl guides from Yemen and Lebanon, in addition to Jordan, are participating in the gathering.

Head of the Lebanese delegation Ibtisam Fuleil delivered an address on behalf of both the Yemeni and Lebanese delegation. She expressed her satisfaction with the gathering and hoped that similar gatherings will be held in Lebanon and Yemen.

Princess Basma distributed awards and certificates to excellent participants and presented two shields to the heads of the Lebanese and Yemeni delegations.

Princess Basma also received the shield of the Ministry of Education on the occasion.

AL-NUMAN ENGINEERING & TRADING

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## WHAT'S ON EXHIBITIONS

★ Art exhibition by Mohammad Nasrallah at the Royal Cultural Centre.

University Str., El-Fanar Center Bld. Tel. 694201 Fax. 694202 Amman - Jordan



## Jordan Times

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### Economic Forum

## Foreign aid and the Jordanian economy

By Dr. Abdallah Malki

DURING three decades after the World War II, foreign aid was envisioned, by practitioners and laymen alike, as a major agent of economic development and growth. Whether in developing countries or in the advanced ones, aid, flowing mainly from the United States, was instrumental in rebuilding war-ravaged Western Europe and Japan and in igniting growth in most of the Third World countries, or it was thought so.

It was only towards the end of the seventies that some researchers working in the field of development economics started to question the long-granted usefulness of foreign aid. It was maintained that foreign grants adversely affected national savings in developing countries and the motives to self-dependency. Another argument was that developing countries ran against what is called the "absorptive capacity" barrier defined as the ability of the developing country to use capital productively: developing countries could not use capital in a productive way so that foreign aid was not effective. At that time the term "aid fatigue" was coined and started to gain wider and wider circulation. Here some schools of thought demanded a shift of aid

emphasis from cash handouts to technical assistance on the assumption that this kind of aid would help in relaxing the absorptive capacity constraint.

However, the oil shocks created the vast surpluses of petrodollars which had to be recycled in order to keep the engine of the world economy running smoothly. An unprecedented process of lending gripped the world. Through banks, the surplus countries lent generously and the developing countries borrowed unreservedly. The result was the Third World debt. True this debt ballooned to the point of explosion but it did so only after it had supplanted foreign aid as a source of funds to developing countries.

Foreign aid stayed in the sidelines throughout the oil boom and shortly afterwards. When it came back to the limelight it had become a different creature. Now it became more politicised, or more overtly so, because it has never been otherwise. The International Monetary Fund and World Bank started to manage the mainstream of this aid under the canvass of the economic adjustment programmes.

If you grant a certain sum of money, say JD1,000, to somebody, he may spend it on buying clothes or food or on vacationing or even gambling. In this case, this aid will not be productive in economic terms because it finances current, and probably, luxurious expenditure. Another person might use the same sum for buying stocks or retiring a debt or may keep it in a saving account, in which case it finances virtuous capital expenditure. Thus it is the way we use foreign aid funds that really matters. Money is not intrinsically good or bad and foreign aid cannot be blamed for the way recipients use, misuse or abuse it.

Foreign aid has been playing an outstanding role in the economic life of Jordan. Most notably, it has recently tided us over the bleak days which followed the 1988 devaluation of the Jordan dinar and through the very stormy days of the Gulf war and its aftermath. It is very important to identify very well this role and accord it the credit it deserves. Otherwise we will surrender ourselves to destructive complacency and nostalgia. One already can detect clearly the early symptoms of such a nostalgia.

## Legal recourse

BY LIMITING the number of Palestinians that could cross over River Jordan bridges to the West Bank to a trickle of 1,700 a day, Israel is imposing inhuman and degrading conditions on the Palestinian people who seek family reunion during the summer season. It cannot be claimed by Israel that there are security reasons behind this policy since until recently nearly 4,000 Palestinians would be allowed into the West Bank on a daily basis without any effect on security considerations. Perhaps one should wait a few days to see whether and how the new government of Yitzhak Rabin would alter this outrageous decision. Needless to say, any new directives from the new government could serve as a clear signal about the real intentions of the Labour-led coalition towards Arab neighbours.

Still the Arab case must not and should not rest anywhere in anticipation of any new breakthroughs from Israel. The treatment being meted to Palestinians wishing to join their families during their annual summer vacations is a top human rights issue that the Arab side must endeavour to put before the relevant human rights fora, especially the ones being conducted under the aegis of the United Nations. Last month there was an Arab attempt to reconvene the U.N. on Human Rights Commission in an emergency session to discuss the deteriorating situation in the Gaza Strip. That effort failed because the Arab side did not put all its weight behind it and because of administrative reasons that would have precluded the holding of such an extraordinary meeting by the commission. In view of the fact that the U.N. Sub-Commission on Human Rights is scheduled to convene in early August, it would not be only appropriate but also necessary to add on the agenda of that U.N. body the issue of bridge crossing by Palestinians under those degrading conditions. The right of any person to leave and return to one's country even when it is occupied is a well-enshrined principle in international law that Israel has no alternative but to heed and respect. It would seem that it would be the suitable thing to do now in anticipation of the impending meeting of the sub-commission to request the inclusion of this human rights violation on its agenda.

Maybe not much can be expected from any airing out of such a subject before a U.N. human rights committee. Still the opportunity that would be provided by such a meeting to explain the tragic condition under which the Palestinians have to endure when crossing to see their loved ones may still jolt the international conscience after all into action. The new chapter being opened in Israel now is susceptible to fresh international pressure especially because the Rabin government sought and gained political control there on the basis of its peaceful platform towards the Palestinian side in particular and the Arab World in general.

On the human rights front, Israel had ratified in 1991 a number of important human rights treaties, notably the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights under which it could be held scrupulously accountable. The human rights subject posed by the treatment of Palestinians during their crossing to the West Bank is certainly a matter that falls under these human rights instruments.

## Islamic models — monarchy works for Moroccans

By William Pfaff

TANGIER — The rise of Islamic fundamentalism in the countries of the southern Mediterranean littoral follows the abject failure of the nationalist governments formed in the 1950s and 1960s. The nationalist movements ended colonialism, but the people they liberated mostly are worse off than before.

Morocco has largely been spared the fundamentalist reaction because it was never colonised. The Moroccans have possessed unbroken national sovereignty since the 11th century, under the present dynasty since the 16th century. Moroccan society thus has retained its political integrity, despite the French and Spanish protectorates that were imposed between 1912 and 1956. The Moroccans have continued to consider themselves in control of their country.

Elsewhere in Islamic North Africa and the Middle East, this has not generally been so. Algeria was not merely colonised by France but annexed, with a subsequent and sizable European migration to its farms and industries. Thus until 1962 the French held that Algeria was as much France as Normandy or Provence.

This was why the Algerian independence war in the 1950s was so bitter. The French were able to let Tunisia go, and abandon their Moroccan protectorate, because people recognised that the day of European empires was over. But a part of France itself could not be let go. It was not, until the existing French republic itself collapsed, and General de Gaulle was brought to power.

Obviously the Algerians had not been willing to consider themselves Frenchmen, nor had

the French really treated them as if they were French. The experience they underwent between annexation in the early 19th century and the successful uprising that began in 1954 had all but pulverised their independent confidence as a people and a nation.

There, and elsewhere, the nationalist movements that produced the liberation struggle of the 1950s were founded by people influenced by the liberal and secular political ideas of the West, but who were also, after World War II, crucially influenced by the myths of socialism.

Because the struggle was against European colonial powers who were also democratic and capitalist, as well as allies of the United States, the new North African and Arab nationalist leaders decided that their ally had to be the Soviet Union, a single-party Marxist state and Washington's enemy. They decided that single-party government, and state ownership of the economy, were "progressive" policies, and that anti-Americanism was a corollary of anti-imperialism. This produced much grief for them (and for Washington).

Out of it came political and economic failures. "Liberation" from colonialism ended in one-party governments, eventually military dictatorships. The nationalisation policies of the new states saddled their economies with irrelevant heavy industries, while penalising agriculture and private commerce. Today, 40 per cent of Algeria's (nongovernmental) employment is in the faltering state industrial sector.

Despite cosmetic reform, political power remains with the army. Recent attempts to liberalise the Algerian political system

saw the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front gain an almost certain popular majority. National elections were therefore cancelled in January and fundamentalist activists locked up. With President Mohammed Boudiaf mysteriously assassinated by a member of his own security force, Algeria is at the edge of grave civil disorder.

People turned to the fundamentalists there, and elsewhere in the Arab World, precisely because the secular nationalists of the first generation have so bitterly failed them. The heroes of the Algerian revolution went on to become the country's dictators — and worse, its incompetent and corrupt dictators, squandering Algeria's considerable resources.

The fundamentalist leaders offer the same promises the nationalists made: restored national self-respect and prosperity; and also personal reassurance — that one is in harmony with what God wants. The secular nationalists offered what they called progress: industrialisation and economic development through alliance with the socialist world. That failed. The fundamentalists now offer a reactionary solution: to go back to the theocratic system of the Middle Ages, Islam's years of glory and power.

The advantage of the Islamic monarchs is that they can offer both progress and the value-reassurance of theocratic government. The legitimacy of Morocco's King Hassan II rests not only on the 400-year continuity of his family's rule. It is based as well on his descent from the Prophet, and thus on his position as the religious leader of the Moroccans.

At the same time an Islamic monarch can offer a form of social and economic reform linked to the successful West. Morocco today is in relatively good economic condition, and has even applied for membership in the European Community (a free-trade agreement is being negotiated).

King Hassan II has promised free parliamentary elections later this year and says that all political prisoners have been released (which is disputed).

Because of what has happened in Algeria and elsewhere in the Islamic World, there is today a degree of support for King Hassan among Moroccan elites which did not exist before. Reference now is made to the role King Juan Carlos I played in Spain's transition to democracy. The analogy is not particularly close; Hassan in Morocco is himself the absolute state authority, whose power is supposed to yield to a more democratic system, while Juan Carlos could mediate between General Franco's absolutism and Spain's democratic reformers.

Nonetheless, the idea that Morocco's monarch is in a position to reconcile popular sentiments and anxieties with the elite demand for democratic evolution is valid enough, and the catastrophe in Algeria has made the Moroccan political class aware of the importance of a conservative continuity that keeps Morocco open to Europe and the West.

Their success in building such a Morocco is equally important for the West — and could provide a model which has a constructive influence elsewhere in North Africa — International Herald Tribune.

## Algeria joins hard line over fundamentalists

By John Baggaley

Reuter

ALGIERS — Algeria is determined to join other North African countries in holding back a tide of Muslim fundamentalism, despite the risk of an extremist backlash.

"They want to show strength and determination," said one European diplomat in Algiers after a military court pressed ahead on Sunday with a trial of fundamentalist leaders despite their refusal to leave their cells and a boycott by defence lawyers.

At least 80 security force men have died in the past five months in attacks blamed on fundamentalists who have vowed to "take to the gun" until their leaders are freed.

Abassi Madani, 61, and Ali Belhadj, 35, leaders of the now banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), are facing charges punishable by death. Five other FIS officials face lesser charges.

Neighbouring Tunisia, where more than 100 men face the death penalty, and Egypt are also cracking down on Muslim extremists.

Muslim fundamentalism was fuelled by the advance of the FIS which swept to a landslide first round general election victory last December. The poll was scrapped.

The FIS showed itself, in Algeria's only two multi-party elections, to be the biggest opposition group in the nation of 25 million people.

Some foreign diplomats in Algiers see the trial as a watershed in a country, shaken by year-long violence and last month's assassination of head of state Mohammed Boudiaf.

"If the military decides to hand it over to a civilian court it will be a signal of reconciliation," said one non-European diplomat before the trial started.

As the military brushed aside any such prospect at the weekend, one western diplomat said Algeria's new leaders seemed to be showing determination "to be seen to be imposing their authority."

Another said the general approach could reflect the nation's future path, not only politically but economically, with the appointment of Belaid Abdesse-

lam as prime minister. "It is also in line with the new head of government who is supposed to be a hardline," said the diplomat. "Maybe he will use his own strong will to follow through with austerity which is what the country needs."

Further austerity in a country where 14 million live below an official poverty line and where inequality is rampant could, however, drive more towards fundamentalism as their only hope.

Algerian officials acknowledge poverty was a prime breeding ground for FIS militants.

Diplomats who say the fundamentalists must, in the long-term, be brought into any scheme to reunite the country, saw little chance of this as the trial went ahead.

"The whole picture now to me looks like a hardline ahead with no relaxation in a spectacular case like this," said the European diplomat. "They might be able to keep the lid on for a while..." he added.

Across North Africa, to revolutionary Iran and conservative kingdoms in the Gulf, fundamentalists drew inspiration from the FIS advance which strained some of Algeria's overseas ties.

Tunisia and Morocco were unhappy with what they saw as former President Chadli Benjedid's willingness to live with a fundamentalist victory at the polls.

They believed this could have given their own dissidents a too convenient base.

France too was concerned at the Islamic advance at the polls, fearing a fresh wave of immigrants to fuel further racist unrest if the FIS took power. Paris also fears instability in North Africa, again sparking immigration.

Sunday's court hearing, in Bida, 50 km south of Algiers, coincided with a double military trial in Tunisia of alleged members of the Nahdha (renaissance) Party.

It also followed the detention in Egypt of more than 450 Muslim militant suspects and the arrest on Saturday in a Cairo suburb of an alleged key leader.

## Children with no rights

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO, Egypt. — When she was 16, Horia Abdul Rahman, a peasant girl from the village of Miniet Ganad in Egypt, was married to a wealthy foreigner. The union, brokered by the usual matchmaker, was perfectly legitimate. In fact, when they saw the amount of money the 52-year-old fiancé was prepared to pay for their daughter's dowry, Horia's parents were overjoyed: it was as much as her father and brothers could earn in two years.

This manna from heaven unfortunately was short-lived. Two months after the wedding, Horia's husband vanished back to his country, though not without leaving her with another wad of money. With this in hand, the younger girl would at least be an attractive prospect for any of the young men in her village.

But that possibility vanished when Horia discovered she was pregnant. After she had twins, the village elders advised her to hire a lawyer to trace her former husband and obtain the financial support to which she was entitled. Most of her money went into the pursuit of the elusive husband — to no avail.

Meanwhile, the children thrived and outwardly nothing set them apart from the other village kids. But in the eyes of the law, Horia's children are pariahs: she found that out when she tried to enroll them into the free, state-run local school. There is no place for them in the land where they were born.

Explains Dr. Fouad Riad, a noted Egyptian professor of international law and a prominent figure in legal circles worldwide: "Children born of a foreign



Dr. Fouad Riad

father are considered to be foreigners and take the nationality of the father. As foreigners, they have none of the social rights granted to all Egyptians, such as free education from elementary school through to university, or the right to work."

Horia failed again in her second round of efforts to trace the father of her children, and they have therefore joined the ranks of some 250,000 children in Egypt (and several hundreds of thousands in the Arab World) who are in a legal limbo. To all intents and purposes, they are stateless. They don't exist.

While questions of nationality were redefined in many countries after World War II with, for example the introduction of dual citizenship, this was not the case in most of the Arab World, explains 63-year-old Riad, who has written several books on legal matters. "The exceptions are Tunisia, which fully adopted the

reforms, and Kuwait, the difference being that only children born in Kuwait of a Kuwaiti mother are entitled to citizenship. The rest of the Arab World applies the 1949 Egyptian code which was derived from the German, French and Italian legal systems — and most of all the Islamic Sharia law."

Dr. Riad, who studied in Cairo as well as Paris, emphasises that the Holy Koran is very clear on the rights of women. "Women have the same rights as men, except in three clear areas: divorce, testimony (before a court of law) and inheritance," he said. The Sharia makes no difference between men and women in all other areas of civilian law, but it does not address the question of nationality at all. As a result, and because of cultural rather than legal considerations, the nationality of a child is automatically determined by that of the father, he added.

"There is one exception to that," notes Dr. Riad, "which is when the father is unknown. This has led to some real aberrations: we regularly see mothers who are prepared to declare their children as illegitimate in order to ensure that they will not be considered foreigners in the only country they have ever known!"

Dr. Riad has in fact been leading a crusade since 1975 to reverse some of the provisions of the new citizenship law introduced that year, which, he charges, violate Article 40 of the Constitution on the equality of the sexes, particularly where dual nationality is concerned. "There is an injustice," he says, "since children born of an Egyptian father abroad have the right to dual citizenship while this is not true of the offspring of an Egyptian woman and a foreign man."

Dr. Riad battled against the obstacles of a heavy and apathetic system, but his efforts may soon pay off. The citizenship law is currently under review by the Egyptian National Assembly or parliament. New provisions could help protect the children of women like Horia, and hundreds of thousands of others who may be deprived of schooling if their family cannot afford the fees. In addition, these children cannot inherit property; they would have no right to their grandfather's piece of land, for example, and as adults they cannot benefit from social aid structures or work for the government.

Even the few women who have been able to trace their foreign husbands and are awarded the right to alimony by an Egyptian court rarely succeed in having the ruling applied in the husband's country. "The laws are far from perfect," Dr. Riad noted. "From one country to another, they are often inefficient because of procedural complications or the very murky principle of 'public order'." The non-enforcement of court rulings is one of the most acute problems in international relations when it comes to matters affecting individuals. The internal legal system of a given country may be very valid, but if the system is locked into itself and it is impossible to have its provisions effectively applied elsewhere without a huge amount of time, effort and expense, Dr. Riad explained, "We can safely say that they are imperfect and need to evolve. In a modern world where borders are little more than artificial concepts... the law can and should be adapted in the interest of the individual and in a spirit of justice..." World News Link.

### LETTERS

## Reconstituting the mosaics

To the Editor:

With reference to the article "School of mosaics to be completed by year's end" published on 14/7/1992, I would like to point out that the Italian government's contribution to the project amounts to a grant of 2.09 billion Italian lire (approx. \$1,820 million) for the financing of the four years' activities, and not \$1 million as mentioned in the said article.

I would also like to point out that the activities of the project started already in September 1991. When a group of seven Jordanian trainers has been granted a scholarship to follow courses in "mosaic restoration techniques" in Ravenna (Italy).

Diego Brasoli,  
First Secretary,  
Italian Embassy,  
Amman.

Editor's note: The news item mentioned above was translated as exactly received from the Jordan News Agency, Petra.



## Jordan: Rabin's offer is cosmetic

(Continued from page 1)

He reiterated that Jordan would stress its principle stand which call for abiding by international legitimacy and U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 concerning Palestinian territory and Resolution 425 concerning Lebanese territory.

"What is important for Jordan is what takes place at the negotiating table," he said.

"Is there any possibility for stopping settlement activity and any possibility for immediate Israeli withdrawal from the occupied lands? Is there any possibility for transferring authority and giving the Palestinian people their rights? Dr. Abu Jaber said, "These questions should be answered in the coming rounds of negotiations which would show how serious is any government in dealing with the peace process."

Syria accused Mr. Rabin of pursuing "an aggressive and expansionist policy like his predecessor Yitzhak Shamir but in a different shape."

The official daily Tishreen, which reflects government thinking, said Mr. Rabin's statement Monday that Israel would maintain security settlements and keep Jerusalem as capital of Israel showed he was not supporting peace.

"Seeking to keep land under any formula—security or political—and calling for an end to resistance while occupation and settlements are continuing will not push the peace process in the right direction," Tishreen said.

Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa later underscored Syria's concern about Israel holding on to the occupied territories in comments to a weekly cabinet meeting, an official said.

Neither the newspaper nor Mr. Sharaa mentioned Rabin's proposal to visit Arab countries to pursue

peace talks or his invitation to Arab leaders to come to occupied Jerusalem.

"Assessment of the statement made by the head of the new Israeli government in which he referred to the international changes and the importance of achieving peace in the region showed it did not include anything about Security Council resolutions on which the Madrid conference was based," the official quoted Mr. Sharaa as saying.

Lebanon said Mr. Rabin's offer was irrelevant to the peace process. Asked by reporters about Lebanon's reaction to the offer, Information Minister Michel Samaha said after a cabinet meeting:

"The government's position is to work within the context of what started in Madrid under the auspices of the United States and the Soviet Union and anything outside this context will not be dealt with."

Suhail Chammass, Lebanon's chief peace negotiator, said when Rabin's Labour Party won the elections last month that he hoped a new government would show it was fully committed to the peace process.

## Sudan

(Continued from page 1)

government force as "very exhausted" and with little supplies, and claimed that the rebels have blown up a bridge isolating government forces.

Torit has been under government attack for several months.

"We withdrew our forces from Torit yesterday and we have laid siege to it. The government forces will be annihilated," Garang Deng, SPLA spokesman in Nairobi, told Reuters.

## U.S. hopes to get 'ball rolling'

(Continued from page 1)

tries.

But he also welcomed the idea of informal meetings with the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation at the peace talks—a policy rejected by his predecessor, Likud party leader Yitzhak Shamir.

Relations between Mr. Bush and Mr. Shamir had been frosty. Mr. Shamir rejected Mr. Bush's demand that Israel end further Jewish settlement on the West Bank and Gaza. Mr. Bush then refused to guarantee \$10 billion in commercial bank loans Israel wanted to house tens of thousands of new Russian and Ethiopian immigrants.

While Mr. Rabin supports all but "political" settlements on the occupied territories, Mr. Bush is looking to the Labour party leader to be more accommodating than Mr. Shamir.

The administration also hopes that quick progress in the Middle East peace process might lift Mr. Bush's low standing among American Jews over his decision to withhold the loan guarantees to Israel.

Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton only added to Mr. Bush's difficulties with Jewish voters by selecting Tennessee Senator Al Gore, one of Israel's strongest supporters in the Senate, as his running mate.

Dr. Haider Abdul Shafi, chief Palestinian negotiator in the peace talks, warned Tuesday that a change in the U.S. position on loan guarantees for Israel could break up the peace process.

Mr. Abdul Shafi's comment at a news conference in Arab East Jerusalem, followed hints from U.S. officials that Mr. Bush may grant the guarantees because of Mr. Rabin's pledges to curb some settlement building.

Mr. Abdul Shafi said reversing the U.S. stand would send the wrong

signal to the U.S.-backed peace talks.

"I think when this American administration linked the settlement process with the question of the loan guarantees, it meant to us that the American government considers that the continued settlement process in the occupied territories is incompatible with the prospects of peace," he said.

"Now," he added: "If the American government is going to go back on that... then it goes to convey the opposite meaning."

He said that legitimising the settlement process would destroy the peace process.

## 'Power struggle'

(Continued from page 1)

overturn its previous refusal to call Mr. Ghazali marked a defence victory. There was no explanation for the tribunal's ruling.

The FIS believed that Mr. Ghazali and the others could shed light on clashes between security forces and the fundamentalists in June 1991 that left at least 55 people dead.

The FIS men's lawyers on Tuesday refused for a third day to attend court, maintaining they were still refused access to those accused, a charge the prosecution has denied.

French lawyer Jacques Vergès, who flew in on Monday to join them, told a news conference: "For us the trial has been overturned... for us now the question is 'who were the assassins on the night of June 3 and 4.'"

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## Hanbo to explore for oil in Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

east Jordan near the Saudi border.

The Hanbo exploration will include five wells after seismic and other studies of the area.

Under the draft accord, Hanbo would receive 40 per cent of any natural gas found while Jordan would receive 60 per cent.

Hanbo would get between 25 and 35 per cent of any oil found, depending on the amount, with the rest going to Jordan.

Hanbo was also interested in ventures with Amman to explore for oil in Yemen and Sudan and study the feasibility of mining copper in Jordan's southern Wadi Araba area, officials said.

Mr. Abdul Ragheb said U.S. firm USX-Marathon group's Marathon Oil has asked for reports on the Wadi Araba area while Spain's Repsol SA, currently exploring in Syria, had asked for official data available on the north-eastern parts of Jordan.

Hanbo's operations would exclude parts of Al Rishah where Jordan is already producing 15 million cubic feet of natural gas and using it to generate electricity for the national grid.

Plans are underway to increase gas production to 24 million cubic feet a day by 1993 and generate 90 megawatts a day instead of the current 60 megawatts, Mr. Abdul Ragheb said.

Jordan has so far spent JD 84 million through its National Resources Authority to look for oil but international participation has so far been limited by lack of promising results and depressed world prices.

Mr. Abdul Ragheb said his ministry was studying the possibility of creating a separate national oil entity to boost its internal operations and allow it to work outside of Jordan.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said late Tuesday the cabinet endorsed the proposed agreement with Hanbo Energy.

## Palestinians challenge Rabin

(Continued from page 1)

other PLO factions, and the president and deputy presidents of the Palestine National Council will attend the Tunis meeting.

It was not immediately known if members of the Palestinian negotiating team would join the discussions.

PLO sources said they expected the meeting to lay down policy guidelines for the next steps in talks with Israel now that Mr. Rabin was in office.

The Palestinian meeting will also discuss plans for legislative elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, despite Israel's refusal to consider such elections under the interim self-government arrangements Mr. Rabin has proposed, the sources said.

Without explicitly opposing Mr. Rabin's offer, Mr. Abdul Rahman appeared sceptical about its value.

"The time of shock diplomacy is out. We do not need television camera diplomacy," he told Reuters.

"What we need is a willingness to deal with issues seriously, to undo the bad taste left by ... Shamir."

Mr. Rabin has set a target of nine months for agreement on autonomy with the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Mr. Abdul Rahman said negotiations on the arrangements should end within four months. "Asking for an extension of the deadline is only a manoeuvre," he said.

He criticised Mr. Rabin's proposal to retain large areas of the occupied territories and strengthen Israeli settlements in the Golan Heights, above the Jordan Valley and around Jerusalem.

What he said about Jerusalem is unacceptable. It is a mask for occupation and security settlements are another mask for occupation.

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# Al Ramtha fails in bid to take top spot after draw with Sahab

By Alean Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times  
AMMAN — The past week was certainly the most interesting in this season's second round of the first division soccer championship as Sahab beat Al Qadissieh and drew with Al Ramtha, while Al Wihdat defeated Al Faisali and Al Arabi crushed Yarmouk Amman.

Sahab could have turned things their way and improved their standing had they kept their 2-0 lead over Al Ramtha in the first half.

Sahab's Mohammad Odeh scored his team's first goal in the 44th minute, followed less than two minutes later by another goal that stunned Al Ramtha and gave Sahab the winning edge.

Sahab could not however keep their precious and unexpected lead as Al Ramtha began attacking in the second half and Sahab's Shawkat Aqel lost the chance to score a third goal. Moments later Al Ramtha's Fayez Bidewi scored his team's first goal in the 56th minute. Three minutes later a header by Murad Al Horani equalised for Al Ramtha who lightened their defence and seemed content with the draw, while Sahab were regretting the lost chance to beat their second-

placed opponent which would have moved them up to sixth place, relatively away from the soon-to-be-relegated 7th to 9th placed teams.

In another match, Al Wihdat finally won an important match beating Al Faisali 2-0 at Al Hussein Youth City with a crowd estimated at 20,000, cheering. Both teams concentrated on defence. Although Al Faisali did not make use of the chances they had, Al Wihdat quickly scored the match's two goals in the first half.

Firas Fawzi scored the first goal in the 23rd minute, while Hisham Abdul Mun'em scored the second goal in the 44 minute.

Al Faisali attacked relentlessly in the second half while Al Wihdat withdrew to defensive positions to keep their lead. Al Faisali's Jamal Abu Abed and Khaled Awad lost many chances as the match ended in a precious win for Al Wihdat who moved up to fifth position and can now make a comeback as a top team defending their title.

Al Arabi scored a big win (4-1) over Yarmouk Amman but both teams now have a gruelling battle to avoid relegation. Rakez Karasneh scored Al Arabi's first goal early in the 8th minute. Yar-

mouk's Bilal Ali equalised in the 25th minute but Karasneh went on to score Al Arabi's second goal from a penalty kick in the 40th minute. It was certainly Al Arabi's day as striker Ayman Al Omari scored their third goal and Mouffaq Daraiseh scored the fourth and last goal in the 59th minute ending the match 4-1 for Al Arabi.

An unexpected but interesting result was Sahab's 1-0 win over Al Qadissieh, who had beaten Al Ahli, drawn with Al Faisali and lost to Al Ramtha 3-0 far in the second round, proving to be a somewhat consistent team.

This time Sahab managed to alter that image and were deter-

mined to win to improve their standing. Their early goal in the 13th minute by Ghaleb Raji could have been followed by other scoring chances as Al Qadissieh seemed to be playing their worst match, except for goalkeeper Khaled Abdul Fattah who saved a penalty kick that would have given Sahab a 2-0 lead. Sahab were however happy with their 1-0 victory.

In the upcoming matches Al Qadissieh plays Yarmouk Amman Wednesday; Al Hussein clashes with Al Ramtha and Sahab plays Al Faisali Thursday; Al Ahli and Al Wihdat clash Friday and Al Arabi plays Al Ramtha Sunday.

## STANDINGS

Team	Played	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Al Hussein	11	5	5	1	19	10	15
Al Ramtha	11	6	3	2	20	13	15
Al Faisali	11	4	5	2	17	10	13
Al Ahli	11	4	5	2	11	9	13
Al Wihdat	11	4	4	3	18	12	12
Al Qadissieh	12	3	5	4	11	9	11
Sahab	12	2	7	3	16	23	11
Al Arabi	12	2	3	7	12	22	7
Yarmouk Amman	11	2	1	8	6	22	5

\* Al Hussein-Al Ramtha have a postponed match.

## U.S., Germany advance in Federation Cup

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — Gigi Fernandez and Lori McNeil posted straight-set victories to pace the United States to a 3-0 victory over Britain and a place in the second round of the Federation Cup.

Top-seeded Germany, led by Wimbledon champion Steffi Graf, downed New Zealand 3-0 and also advanced to the second round.

In other first-round matches of the women's equivalent of the Davis Cup, Japan advanced over Indonesia, the Netherlands beat Paraguay, Poland defeated Israel and Denmark edged Chile to earn a second-round meeting with the Americans.

Fernandez, ranked 25th in the world, beat Monique Javer 6-4, 6-1 to put the U.S. team ahead against Britain.

McNeil then defeated Jo Durie 7-5, 6-3 to assure the sixth-seeded Americans of the victory.

In the doubles, Pam Shriver and Debbie Graham beat Durie and Clare Wood 6-4, 7-6.

"We thought this could be a difficult match but we played well," U.S. team captain Marty Riessen said.

"Gigi arrived at 6 a.m. from Japan and I had told Debbie to be ready to play," he said. "But Gigi had slept all the way on the plane and wanted to play."

## SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

### Indurain wins time trial

LUXEMBOURG (AP) — Defending champion Miguel Indurain of Spain powered his way into contention as he won the time trial in the Tour De France but Pascal Lino of France remained the overall leader. Indurain won the 65-kilometre individual test with a top performance of 1 hour, 19 minutes, 31 seconds, three minutes ahead of the field, a huge amount in this caliber of competition. He jumped from 12th to second in the overall standings. France's Armand De Las Cuevas took second and world champion Gianni Bugno took third, 3:41 behind. Three-time winner Greg Lemond was fifth, 4:04 back with Zbigniew Jaskolski of Poland fourth. Lino finished in sixth, 4:06 behind, far exceeding expectations after he was more than six minutes behind Indurain in both of last year's time trials.

### Capriati prepares for Olympics

NAHWAH, New Jersey (R) — Though she has had plenty of problems this year, American teenage star Jennifer Capriati is relaxed and confident heading into this month's Olympics. "I'm not going to feel any pressure at the Olympics," Capriati said at a news conference Monday at the Patmark Tennis Classic, an \$150,000 special event tournament where she is seeded second behind world number one Monica Seles. "It could be a once in a lifetime experience. Why not stress out myself about it? The fact that I got picked is great." Capriati has yet to win a tournament this season and has lost in the quarterfinals of the year's Grand Slam tournaments the Australian and French Opens and Wimbledon. Frustrated with her results, she fired coach Pavel Slozil of Czechoslovakia earlier this year. But, the 16-year-old Capriati has high hopes in joining Mary Joe Fernandez, Zina Garrison and Gigi Fernandez on the U.S. team heading for Barcelona.

### Bubka nursing tendon inflammation

MILAN, Italy (AP) — World pole vault champion Sergei Bubka is nursing a tendon inflammation and said in an interview published Tuesday he will not compete in any international track meet before the Olympics. "I can't take risks. My right heel-string hurts in an interview with Milan sports daily Gazzetta Dello Sport. "The games are near, and it's an opportunity I can't miss," said Bubka, interviewed in Berlin. The Ukrainian ace, who set a world record of 6.11 metres in France last month, added that after the thrills in Seoul and Tokyo, when he won the Olympic and World titles at the very last jump, he hoped to take it easy in Barcelona. "I hope to win the gold medal in a tranquil way," explained Bubka, a certain gold medalist in Barcelona.

### Ottey sets best time of year

SALAMANCA, Spain (R) — Jamaican Merlene Ottey, who goes in search of her first Olympic gold medal this month at the age of 32, set the fastest time in the world this year in a women's 100 metres race. Ottey, who has yet to win a major championship title, powered to a clear victory at an international meeting with a time of 10.80 seconds. She shaved 0.01 seconds off the previous best time this year, set in Moscow last month by Russian Irina Privalova, who will be one of her opponents at the Barcelona games which start on July 25. Ottey's compatriot Juliet Cuthbert finished second Monday in 10.89 seconds. American Michael Johnson loomed to an easy victory in the men's 200 metres but was well below his bet time. The sprinter coped with breezy conditions to sweep home in a comfortable 19.91 seconds with the rest of the pack never in contention.

### Pieterse can do well at Olympics

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Zola Pieterse's training adviser said Monday he was confident she could do well in this month's Olympics despite having pulled out of a race last week. Pieter Labuschagne, who used to train Pieterse full-time and now coaches another South African, Elana Meyer, said: "There is only one performance that counts and that is the final at the Olympic Games." Pieterse, who competed for Britain in the 1984 Olympics under her maiden name of Budd, pulled up with cramp during a 2,000 metres race in London Friday. "What counts at the Olympic Games are guts, experience, and motivation and Zola Budd has got more of that than most athletes. Don't write her off yet," Labuschagne said.

### Petrantoff uncertain of Olympic place

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Former world javelin record holder Tom Petrantoff is uncertain of a place in South Africa's squad for the Barcelona Olympics because of concern over whether he is eligible. Athletics South Africa (ASA) President Deon Van Zyl said Monday some officials in the athletics controlling body had raised questions about Petrantoff's eligibility. Petrantoff, a naturalised South African, was part of a U.S. rebel athletics team which visited South Africa in 1989 at the height of the international sports boycott imposed because of the country's apartheid policies. Petrantoff had tentatively been given a place as a reserve on the Olympic team, provided his change of nationality posed no problems internationally. But that was before the ASA officials raised their concern this weekend.

### Finns urge ban on new Nemeth javelin

HELSINKI (R) — A new Javelin designed by Hungary's former Olympic champion Miklos Nemeth violates international rules and should be banned, a senior Finnish sports official said Tuesday. Czechoslovak Jan Zeleny set a world record of 94.74 metres with the new Nemeth at Oslo's Bislet Games on July 4. Eero Uotila, projects chief at the Finnish Sports Federation, said the new javelin had a removable carbon fibre shell which reduced vibration in the air.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI  
Tribune Media Services, Inc.

### SPARKLING DEFENSE

Both vulnerable. West deals.  
NORTH  
♠ A J 9  
♥ A K Q 10 9 5  
♦ 8  
♣ A 10 7  
WEST  
♠ K 10  
♥ J 6 2  
♦ A K 10 7 6 2 8 5 4  
♣ K 9  
EAST  
♠ Q 7 3  
♥ 4 3  
♦ 4 3  
♣ 8 5 3 2  
SOUTH  
♠ 8 6 5 4 2  
♥ 8 7  
♦ Q J 9  
♣ J 8 4

The bidding:  
West North East South  
1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠  
Pass 3 ♠ Pass 3 NT  
Pass Pass Pass  
Opening lead: ♠

Know your enemy. What you do at the bridge table is sometimes determined by the quality of the opposition. If, for example, declarer knows that the opponents are not the best defenders, a deceptive play might stand a better chance than the technically correct line. On this hand from rubber bridge, a defender who knew the enemy were reliable bidders employed that knowledge to find an unusual lead.

Sitting West was San Francisco internationalist, bridge teacher and

cruise director Ron von der Porten. The one thing certain on this auction was that North held at least an eight-trick hand. The other was that declarer surely held a diamond stopper. Since a diamond lead was likely to give declarer the fulfilling trick, West cast about for more fertile ground.

Von der Porten considered leading a heart, but that probably was only delaying the decision. With nothing much to go on, West decided North was more likely to be weak in spades than clubs, so the king of spades hit the table.

There was now just one way for declarer to make the game—win the ace of spades and return the jack, pinning the king and setting up the pipe as the fulfilling trick. Not surprisingly, declarer did not find that line.

Instead, declarer ran six heart tricks. West discarded three diamonds, East high-lowed in clubs to show a feature in the suit, then shifted a diamond and a spade, and declarer let go three spades and a club. Declarer tried a diamond to the queen. West won and returned the king of clubs, and the defenders were assured of five tricks—three diamonds and one in each black suit.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JULY 15, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** This is a day and evening to liberate yourself of obligations and responsibilities that claim you from the past. Organize your future to bring more efficiency and comfort to your everyday life.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) So many interesting activities await your concentrated attention that you would be wise to make a plan of action to utilize them in a scheduled manner.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You have a special ability that can be improved by more detailed attention focused upon it and it can prove even a greater benefit if you do so.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Get ready for some activities at your home this day that requires more than usual preparation and you have a better corresponding time by doing so.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Look for whatever for which ways you can best send off the message that those at a distance are expecting from you and study new correspondence.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) You can think about expenses and how to collect monies due you for the coming days so devise a course of action by which this is done most easily.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Your own thoughts and ideas should take precedence today so

forget serving and doing for others and go after what you yourself are eager to have.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Consider well the various intimate desires that mean so much to you and to the little things that will help bring such right into your orbit of influence.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Very particular and exacting friends and acquaintances are now willing to give you the benefit of their knowledge to aid you to get what you want.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) A day to get into those outside activities that are difficult to get done over the coming days to show that you are a solid citizen.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) If you have the chance to travel a distance for whatever your purpose this should be a good time to do so and to make some new acquaintances.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) A day to take care of whatever agreements you have made so that they are in back of you once and for all time and then you can formulate a new business system.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) A considerable amount of conversation with an associate or partner is needed to reach a satisfactory meeting of minds so don't be reticent with words.

## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Girls mature faster than boys. In some cases, 30 years faster."

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TYTIK

KYACT

FLUDON

CUMAU

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

I think I've lost my way. LAST CHANCE Gas.

WHAT HE WAS WHEN HE REALIZED HE HAD ENOUGH GAS TO FINISH HIS TRIP.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "O O O O - O O O O"

Saturday's Jumbles: SOGGY NOTCH GENTLE HAIRDO

Answer: What a trap! Artist fails to learn how to do—GET THE HANG OF THINGS

(Answers tomorrow)

THE Daily Crossword by Matthew Higgins

ACROSS

1 Let abet

5 Spectrum producer

10 Imitate

14 "and Lovers"

19 Out of this world

16 Envoys

17 Ready for a fall

20 Strong desire

21 Cooking chamber

22 — at quarantine

23 Did I

24 Urban area

25 Sparsely

26 Misfit

27 Translation

29 Cycle or pod precursor

30 "Who's partner"

32 Hair trigger

34 Lodes' material

35 Difficult to hold

36 Max. town

38 Debt security

40 Depart

41 Superlative suffix

42 Vulnerable saint

43 Says

44 Track event

45 Mort. the comedian

46 Declare

48 "He's making eyes"

50 Favorite

53 Unyielding

55 Biblical word

57 Relationship

58 Enormous lake

59 Island sea

60 Severe

61 Conduct

10 Cagney's TV partner

11 Golf club

12 Decomposition

13 Misapprehension

15 Shapeless lump

18 Affectation

25 Flavor

26 Swaying dances

27 Descender's

28 Name on a check

29 Trick

30 "Superman" alternative

31 Man and

32 Altar gift

34 Ryan or Tatum

36 Corral college

45 Sup

46 Movie dog

47 Leading actor

48 Chapter of the Koran

49 Point make

50 Virtuous

51 Lamb

52 Watch over

54 Slay

55 Out of

56 Altar

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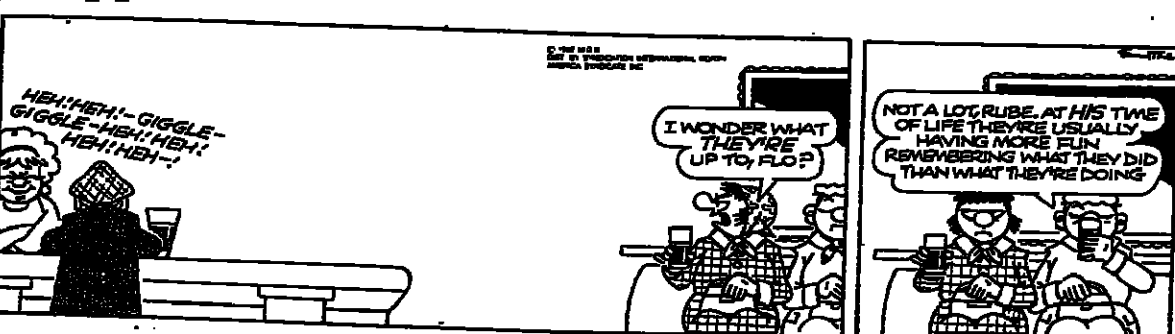
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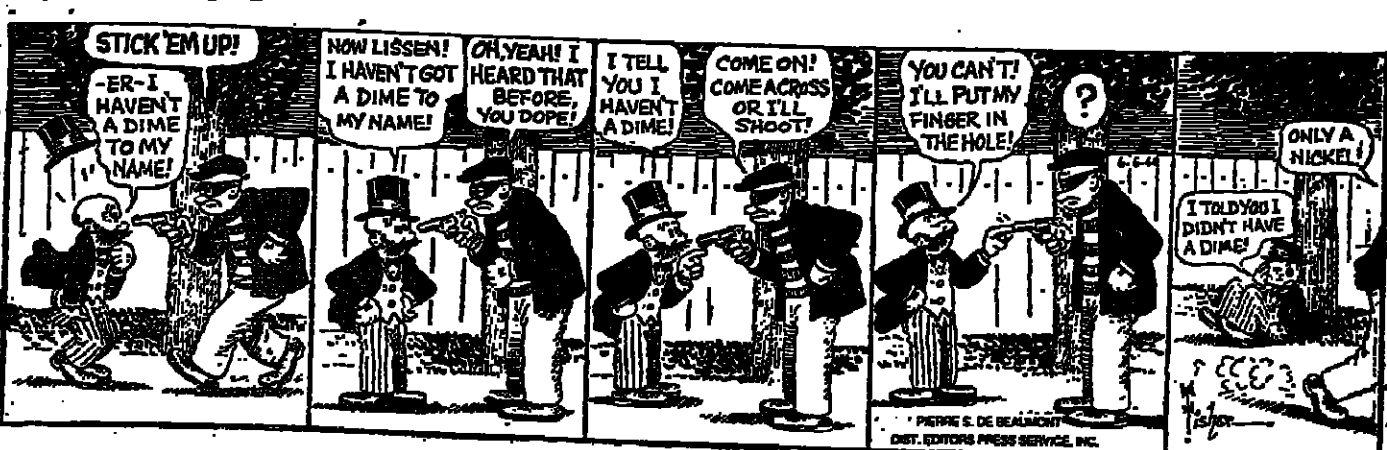
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff





**Financial Jordan Times**  
In cooperation with  
Central Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar to International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE 14/7/92	TOKYO CLOSE 14/7/92
British Pound	1.9895	1.9820
Deutsche Mark	1.4745	1.4620
Swiss Franc	1.3325	1.3350
French Franc	4.9810	5.0130
Japanese Yen	124.80	124.95
European Currency Unit	1.3845	1.3751

European Currency Unit  
1 ECU = 16.6363 DM

Forwarding Interest Rates Date: 14/7/92

Currency	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months
U.S. Dollar	3.45	3.31	3.43	3.75
British Pound	9.95	9.95	9.95	9.87
Deutsche Mark	9.68	9.68	9.68	8.56
Swiss Franc	8.75	8.87	8.87	8.68
French Franc	10.00	10.00	10.00	9.95
Japanese Yen	4.56	4.37	4.18	4.18
European Currency Unit	10.48	10.50	10.50	10.37

Previous Metals Date: 14/7/92

Commodity	Unit	Price
Gold	350.45	6.60
Silver	3.96	0.89

Other Currencies Date: 14/7/92

Currency	Unit	Price
U.S. Dollar	0.666	0.666
British Pound	1.2874	1.2874
Deutsche Mark	0.4499	0.4521
Swiss Franc	0.4982	0.5007
French Franc	0.1332	0.1332
Japanese Yen	0.5387	0.5354
Dutch Guilder	0.3989	0.4009
Spanish Peseta	0.1239	0.1245
Italian Lira	0.0594	0.0587
Belgian Franc	0.02177	0.02188

CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	12/7/92	Close	13/7/92	Close
All Share	142.10		142.07	
Banking Sector	104.85		104.92	
Insurance Sector	150.13		149.98	
Industry Sector	194.56		194.36	
Services Sector	178.23		178.03	

London Exchange Rates

One Sterling	1.9220/25	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1928/33	Canadian dollar
	1.4835/40	Deutsche mark
	1.6736/41	Dutch guilder
	1.3400/10	Swiss franc
	30.55/59	French franc
	5.0125/75	Italian lire
	1121/1122	Japanese yen
	124.71/76	Saudi riyal
	5.3805/55	Sri Lankan rupee
	5.8250/50	Norwegian crown
	5.7950/100	Danish crown
One ounce of gold	350.30/350.80	U.S. dollar

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.9220/25	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1928/33	Canadian dollar
	1.4835/40	Deutsche mark
	1.6736/41	Dutch guilder
	1.3400/10	Swiss franc
	30.55/59	French franc
	5.0125/75	Italian lire
	1121/1122	Japanese yen
	124.71/76	Saudi riyal
	5.3805/55	Sri Lankan rupee
	5.8250/50	Norwegian crown
	5.7950/100	Danish crown
One ounce of gold	350.30/350.80	U.S. dollar

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET  
BIDDING RATE CENTER AMMAN - AMMAN  
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 661170  
QUOTED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 14/07/1992

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OFFERING PRICE
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	378	2.870	2.800
JORDAN KIBLA BANK	3,937	1.890	1.890
THE JORDANIAN BANK	4,125	2.500	2.500
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	2,010	2.090	2.020
UNION BANK FOR SAVINGS & INVESTMENT	2,170	2.160	2.170
AMMAN BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	417	2.000	2.000
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/AMMAN	30,688	1.170	1.150
AMMAN SECURITIES INVESTMENT	9,344	1.090	1.090
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	763	3.040	3.050
ROYAL JORDANIAN INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	6,435	2.860	2.860
AMMAN BANK	4,680	128,000	117,000
JORDAN INSURANCE	5,460	2.750	2.740
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	1,250	2.490	2.500
ROYAL JORDANIAN INSURANCE	2,741	2.550	2.600
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	6,293	2.280	2.270
AMMAN INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	1,125	4.000	4.010
LIVERPOOL & POOLMAN	6,343	1.350	1.340
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	1,200	2.430	2.400
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODITIES HOTELS	54,120	1.550	1.540
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	29	0.280	0.280
JORDANIAN EQUIP. HIREING & MAINTENANCE	1,093	1.000	1.000
JORDANIAN EQUIP. HIREING & MAINTENANCE	9,991	0.940	0.950
JORDANIAN EQUIP. HIREING & MAINTENANCE	2,098	0.690	0.690
JORDAN KIBLA CO. FOR AGENT & FOOD PROD.	1,180	1.270	1.280
JORDAN PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	5,748	1.530	1.510
JORDAN BANK	3,337	2.480	2.470
AMMAN ALKALON INDUSTRIES	35,039	7.630	7.620
AMMAN ALKALON INDUSTRIES	9,949	9.970	9.950
AMMAN ALKALON INDUSTRIES	35,039	7.630	7.620
AMMAN ALKALON INDUSTRIES	49,497	4.540	4.530
AMMAN ALKALON INDUSTRIES	938	3.750	3.750
AMMAN ALKALON INDUSTRIES	7,446	4.400	4.400
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	3,036	4.700	4.670
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	770	0.780	0.770
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	3,826	4.580	4.700
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	34,061	3.070	3.070
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	3,340	0.580	0.580
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	2,100	4.230	4.200
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	1,325	13,400	13,250
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	1,184	1.600	1.580
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	1,083	0.090	0.090
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	1,300	2.650	2.600
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	27,732	6.800	6.750
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	1,738	3.450	3.470
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	3,338	1.230	1.240
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	4,969	1.730	1.730
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	860	0.580	0.570
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	191,312	5.100	5.110
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	20,793	2.150	2.150
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	804	21,000	21,000
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	2,446	8.460	8.460

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Profit-taking following Monday's strong gains took its toll on prices, although the Nikkei average held above 17,000, ending down 137.10 points at 17,064.63.

SYDNEY — The sharemarket barely moved. The All Ordinaries Index closed 0.1 points down at 1,638.8.

HONG KONG — Shares ended slightly firmer in directionless trading. The Hang Seng Index closed 11.34 higher at 6,097.19.

SINGAPORE — The market lacked fresh incentives but the Straits Times Industrial Index inched up 0.90 point to 1,483.78 on selective blue-chip buying.

BOMBAY — Bombay Stock Exchange brokers continued their boycott for the 27th day. The last BSE index was 3,080.54.

FRANKFURT — Shares were weaker at the end of a subdued session while investors waited to see if the Bundesbank clamped down further on credit. The Dax Index slipped 2.40 points lower at 1,734.10.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed slightly easier after a moderately active session. The SPI Index lost 2.1 points to close at 1,156.9.

PARIS — The Paris bourse is closed for the July 14 national holiday.

LONDON — A late recovery lifted shares to their first gain since last Thursday, buoyed by stronger FTSE futures and John Major's optimistic comments about the economy. The FTSE-100 index ended 5.7 higher at 2,484.0.

NEW YORK — U.S. shares drifted in sluggish late morning trade as investors showed little interest in stocks. The Dow was about one lower at 3,336.

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## Major defends pound, policies against critics

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major Monday defended his policies and the pound sterling against critics in his party and sceptics in currency markets.

He ruled out devaluation of the pound or reversing his tough anti-inflation policies, which have left Britain emerging only slowly from an almost two-year recession.

In a swipe at his critics, including former prime minister Margaret Thatcher, Mr. Major made clear that he would not blink.

"There have been too many instances in the past where (British) governments have changed their policy at the wrong moment and sought reflation..." Mr. Major told parliament.

His goal is no inflation, not just low inflation.

"It is absolutely imperative that we do not duck the necessity of bringing inflation down to a level below that of our competitors, as low as we can get — to nil if possible — and seek to keep it there," Mr. Major said.

It was the latest in a series of public and private attempts to quell criticism among politicians in his ruling Conservative Party, led by Mrs. Thatcher, and soothe jittery financial markets.

The pound was under pressure Monday, dipping more than two German pfennigs to below 2.85 marks as dealers bet on tension in the European Community's currency grid, the Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM).

Some expect Germany to raise its interest rates, almost certainly forcing Britain to follow, due to limits on fluctuations between currencies in the ERM, and possibly followed by a widespread realignment of currencies in the ERM.



John Major

Conservative critics accuse Mr. Major of allowing Britain to become a hostage to German central bankers trying to cope with high German inflation and the costs of reunification.

They say the Bundesbank, Germany's central bank, is effectively preventing him cutting interest rates or depreciating the pound to boost the British economy, where unemployment is expected to top three million and thousands of businesses have gone to the wall.

Mr. Major ruled out any realignment and rejected calls to pull out of the currency link and allow the pound and British interest rates to fall.

Devaluation, Mr. Major said, "leads only to a very short-term gain very rapidly eaten up."

But former Thatcher economic adviser, Sir Alan Walters, wrote in the London newspaper The Evening Standard Monday that: "While we maintain the ERM we not only deal hammer blows to our economy, we also pave the way for a centralised socialist Europe."

Britain entered the ERM in October 1990 to help curb inflation and adjust its economy to those of its EC partners.

Inflation has fallen to an annual 3.9 per cent in June from a peak of 10.9 but interest rates are still high at 10 per cent, down from 15 in late 1990. Meanwhile, the economy has stagnated.

Mr. Major said the strength of the pound in the ERM was the precondition for further interest rate cuts and there would be no withdrawal from ERM when the going got tough.

"We are now making great progress of inflation. I have no intention of throwing it away," he added.

## Kuwaiti overseas investments come under pressure

KUWAIT (R) — A public statement on Kuwait's investments in Spain has highlighted concerns that the emirate's world portfolio has dwindled to less than half its value — once put at \$100 billion.

The anonymous statement by a senior Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) executive in London to the official KUNA news agency blamed other investors for the troubles of chemicals firm Ercros S.A. which could send a European issued by KIO into default.

Ercros is filing for court protection on its \$302 million debt.

Kuwait has channelled oil revenues since the 1960s into building up enormous investments on international markets.

Investment earnings outstripped oil revenues in the 1980s but Western diplomats and economists say the portfolio may have sunk to below \$40 billion from a pre-Gulf war total of about \$100 billion.

Kuwaiti officials have always refused to say how much the portfolio is worth, shrouding the KIO, known as one of the world's most powerful investors, in a veil of secrecy.

But the troubles of KIO's Spanish portfolio, put at about \$7 billion, and a campaign by the opposition Al Qabas newspaper, prompted a lengthy reply carried by KUNA.

"The KUNA statement is unusual... maybe we'll see them (the Kuwaitis) being more communicative," said one Western diplomat.

"They've made many sound investments in the past but they'll be under pressure in the next two to three years... they're not used to having every decision count," he added.

The KIO official said the fund, which has just shaken up management of its main Spanish investment vehicle, Grupo Torres S.A., was reevaluating its holdings and hinted it would not refloat Ercros.

The KIO's Spanish involvement has come in for particular scrutiny as it differs from the fund's arm's length approach elsewhere.

The official said Torres had supported Ercros in the past, in contrast to the Spanish government and Spanish banks who relied on Kuwait to carry the burden.

The KIO's reputation would suffer a serious blow if holders of a \$100 million bond issued by Torres used Ercros's bankruptcy to file for default. The official said the KIO was happy to pay out the bond if nervous investors demanded.

Al Qabas echoed concern among local business circles that the government could lean on the KIO and its Kuwait-based mother company The Kuwait Investment Authority to finance fiscal deficits by selling off further key assets.

But the official said the KIO would not abandon its core investments.

Local pressure on investment officials to reveal their decision-making process has mounted following revelation of the setbacks in Spain and losses of tens of millions of dollars on the sale of shares in Britain's Midland Bank PLC.

The KIO sold a 7.7 per cent share in Midland in April, just before the share price rose after a takeover bid.

## IBM, Siemens and Toshiba form alliance to develop chips

NEW YORK (R) — International Business Machines Corp. (IBM) Monday announced a major alliance with Siemens A.G. of Germany and Toshiba Corp. of Japan to develop the next generation of computer memory chips.

The companies said they will cooperate in the development of 256-megabit chips that will have 16 times more capacity than the chips commonly in use today.

One of the new chips — expected to hold the equivalent of 25,000 pages of double-spaced text — would most likely be used in future generations of small, powerful personal computers and workstations.

"What we're starting today will enable tomorrow's computers," IBM President Jack Kuehler told reporters. The advanced chips should be ready by the end of the decade, the firms said.

The alliance is a major step in development of semiconductor chips after a joint U.S. government-industry chip-making consortium failed in the 1980s. IBM is the world's largest computer firm, Siemens is the biggest in Europe and Toshiba is a major diversified company in Japan.

The developers of the new chip will be fabricating some chip components a mere quarter-micron wide — 400 times narrower than a human hair — the companies said.

The companies disclosed few details about their agreement but said they expect to spend more than \$1 billion developing new technology and building prototype chips.

Teams from the three companies will begin work immediately at IBM's advanced semiconductor technology centre about 100 kilometres north of New York City. Over 200 researchers eventually will take part, including work at Siemens and Toshiba plants.

Since its restructuring late last year, IBM has been pursuing alliances with global rivals in an effort to stay at the forefront of computer developments.

"We still are fierce competitors in equipment and systems," Siemens President Karlheinz Kaske said. "We just want to use the same basic technology for components."

In Tokyo, an American and a Japanese firm said Monday they had joined forces to make flash memory chips, tipped as one of the boom semiconductor products of the 1990s.

Japan's Fujitsu and Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) of the United States said they had agreed to invest equally in a \$700 million factory in Japan to make EPROMs (erasable programmable read-only memories) and flash memory chips.

They said that under the agreement they would also take stakes in each other's equity.

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## Democrats to Bush: 'No 2nd term'

NEW YORK (R) — The Democrats opened their presidential convention with boisterous, mocking rounds of Bush-bashing and Perot-puncturing while Bill Clinton promised to tell America who he is and where he would lead the country.

"As far as this White House is concerned — honey, you can turn out the lights because the party's over," wisecracking Texas governor Ann Richards told laughing, cheering delegates in a typical broadside as the Democrats opened their quadrennial national convention in Madison Square Garden.

"No second term no second term" the thousands of convention delegates chanted in a near frenzy as a gigantic video screen behind the speaker's podium flashed the phrase "read our lips no second term."

Abuse of Republican President George Bush and, to a lesser extent, independent Ross Perot were the order of the day as the Democrats — denied the White House for all but four of the last 24 years — gathered to formally elect Arkansas Governor Clinton, 45, and his running mate, Tennessee Senator Al Gore, 44, as the "dream ticket" to lead them back.

Mr. Clinton followed the tradition of keeping out of the hall until after he is nominated Wednesday. But he said in a television interview he was working to eliminate the last bit of party disharmony by persuading former California Governor Jerry

Brown to endorse his ticket.

The only major sign of party disunity was some taunting between Brown partisans who chanted "let Brown speak" and Clinton forces who replied "let Brown sleep" the Brown forces kept up their chants throughout the evening.

Mr. Brown, who ran a distant second to Mr. Clinton in the primaries and commands a bloc of just more than 10 per cent of the delegates, insists Mr. Clinton must commit himself to greater political reform to win his endorsement. Party leaders are denouncing Mr. Brown a speaking role until he grants that endorsement.

Mr. Clinton said he thought he and his rival would work things out. But Mr. Brown indicated no willingness to yield.

"We're here to stand up for what brought us here," he told Cable News Network.

Mr. Clinton told CNN he was working painstakingly on a Thursday night acceptance speech that would take advantage of that priceless bit of televised limelight.

"I'm doing my best to do a good job with it, to reach out to the American people, to tell them who I am, what I believe in, why I'm running, what's at stake in this election, what's at stake for the people in this election," he said.

"I was very very badly for this election to be an opportunity for the American people to change this country and to rebuild it and to renew it and to reunite it."

While he kept his comments and his manner dignified and rapped Mr. Bush only in reply to questions, the convention speakers piled on the president with bare-knuckled gusto.

Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey reeled off a litany of problems from economic stagnation to collapse of the Soviet empire and the recent Los Angeles racial riots.

"What did you do about it, George Bush," Gen. Bradley would ask after each item, and the crowd would join him in chanting, "you waffled and wiggled and wavered."

Georgia Governor Zell Miller, the second of three "keynote" speakers assigned to rally the crowd, took words from Mr. Bush's own 1988 nomination acceptance speech to ridicule him.

"He told us he was a quiet man, who hears the voices of the people. Today we know the truth: George Bush is a timid man who hears only the voices of caution and the status quo."

Mr. Miller was one of several who also needed Texas billionaire Perot, the potential third-force wild-card in this race, scoffing at his claims to be a Washington "outsider."

From Texas representative Barbara Jordan made no personal attack on Mr. Bush in her keynote address but suggested a "thinly disguised racism and elitism" had prevailed under Republican administrations.

The vast majority of delegates, elected in primaries and party votes, are committed to the party's new dynamic duo of Clinton and Gore and will make them the nominees Wednesday.

Meanwhile an Arab-American leader Monday called the U.S. Democratic Party's policy statement "one-sided" on the Middle East in favour of Israel and demanded more attention from party leaders.

"What we need now is leadership and even-handedness, not political pandering," said James Zogby, president of the Arab American Institute.

"The party's prospective nominee and the Democratic Party itself have chosen to take a position supported only by pro-Israel hardliners," he said in a statement issued here.

Expected Democratic presidential nominee Bill Clinton has been a strong backer of Israel in the primary campaign and has accused Republican President George Bush of siding against Israel in the Middle East peace process.

Arab-American Institute spokesman George Shadrout said approximately 40 Arab-Americans are among the 4,928 delegates to the Democratic national convention.

"The platform should contribute to the peace process," said Mr. Shadrout, adding that Arab-Americans should have greater access to the "Democratic powers that be."



Ethnic Serbian soldiers rest in a forest on the outskirts of the Bosnian town of Gorazde, near the Serbian border.

## Bosnia factions agree to peace talks

LONDON (R) — Leaders of Bosnia's warring factions have agreed to come to London to meet EC envoy Lord Carrington in a new bid to end the fighting, British officials said Tuesday.

The officials said Bosnia-Herzegovina's Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic, Radovan Karadzic, the main Serb political leader, and Marto Boban, a leader of Bosnia's Croat community would hold separate talks with Lord Carrington Wednesday.

"If that goes well, he might be able to get them to talk together," one official said.

The leaders, who represent Bosnia's warring Serb, Croat and Muslim factions, could remain in London for several days if the talks progress well or they could leave quickly if Wednesday's separate session fail to agree on joint talks.

The officials said there were no current plans for British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd, who is leaving later this week on a fact-finding tour of Yugoslavia and some of its breakaway republics, to attend Wednesday's talks.

But Jose Cutileiro, a Portuguese diplomat who has been involved in the EC's mediating efforts, would take part.

Bosnia's Muslim leaders, who control the republic's government, called a halt to EC-sponsored peace talks at the end of May in protest at a Serb mortar attack in the Bosnian capital Sarajevo which killed 16 people and injured 110.

At that time, Mr. Silajdzic said Bosnia's Muslim would not resume negotiations until Serb fighters opened Sarajevo's Airport, lifted roadblocks and withdrew their artillery from around the Bosnian capital.

Since then Lord Carrington has made sporadic attempts — so far unsuccessful — to restart a political dialogue aimed at ending months of fighting and thrashing out future constitutional arrangements for Bosnia.

Bosnia's Serbs have proposed dividing the republic into ethnic areas and urged the Muslims to start negotiations, although they want to preserve Bosnia in its present borders.

The Serbs have announced a Serbian Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which covers about 60 per cent of Bosnia, while the Croats have established the region of Herceg-Bosna near the western border with Croatia.

Meanwhile, Serb forces believe they will capture the town of Gorazde within 48 hours, a senior source close to the U.N. forces told Reuters Tuesday.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that during talks Monday with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, the U.N. asked for access to the besieged town, 70 kilometres (44 miles) east of Sarajevo.

"Karadzic said this will be possible only after Gorazde fell which would be Wednesday or Thursday," the source said.

Serb forces launched an offensive on the mostly Muslim-populated town Saturday, deploying tanks and pounding it with heavy artillery.

All communications with the town, with a 70,000 population including 10,000 children, are cut.

The food and medical situation in the town is desperate, and doctors have been forced to amputate without anaesthesia.

It prompted Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic to appeal to U.S. President George Bush and U.N. Security Council for help.

## Pretoria accuses ANC of violating accord

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The government claimed Tuesday that the African National Congress (ANC) has violated a peace agreement by stockpiling weapons and impersonating security force personnel.

Deputy Justice Minister Danie Schutte charged the ANC military wing had stockpiled thousands of AK-47 assault rifles and millions of bullets along with bombs and missiles in neighbouring Angola.

Mr. Schutte also charged several ANC activists had been caught with police and army uniforms, allegedly to impersonate security force personnel in black townships hit by political violence. He also referred to Amnesty International reports that the ANC is holding prisoners in other African nations.

ANC officials had no immediate response to the charges, which Mr. Schutte said were being referred to the independent National Peace Committee, that oversees the accord signed by major South African political groups late last year.

The charges appeared aimed at blunting ANC accusations of government complicity in black township violence and came on the eve of a U.N. Security Council debate on South Africa.

Government and business leaders, meanwhile, continued separate efforts to defuse South Africa's political crisis and revive talks on sharing power with the black majority.

The ANC pulled out of the talks last month after about 40 blacks were killed in a township massacre. ANC leaders said the government was doing nothing to halt violence in black townships and was not negotiating in good faith on a new constitution.

ANC and allied groups are threatening to launch a general strike on Aug. 3 to force the government to accept its demand for an interim government by the end of the year.

President F.W. de Klerk Tuesday was finalising proposals to help end violence in black townships that has claimed thousands of lives in recent years, government officials said.

The plans were expected to be presented at the Security Council meeting in New York Wednesday. The proposals would try to persuade the ANC to return to the constitutional talks, said the officials, who gave no further details.

ANC President Nelson Mandela, South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha and other leaders will attend the U.N. meeting.

Business leaders were continuing contacts with the ANC's trade union ally, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), to try and avert a general strike.

South African newspapers reported Tuesday that business leaders had backed COSATU's demand for an interim government. But business leaders issued a statement rejecting the reports, saying there had been no agreement.

## CIS peace force moves into Ossetia

MOSCOW (AP) — A joint military peacekeeping force took up positions near South Ossetia in Georgia Tuesday to end one of the ethnic conflicts in the former Soviet Union.

A battalion of Russian paratroopers joined forces with troops from Georgia and North and South Ossetia near the regional capital Tskhinvali, a Georgian military spokesman said.

South Ossetians have been battling Georgians for more than a year, demanding unification with North Ossetia across the border in Russia. More than 700 people have died and 1,500 wounded since the fighting began, according to the secessionist South Ossetian parliament.

In fighting Monday night, four people were killed and two wounded when Georgian forces fired on Tskhinvali, the ITAR-TASS News Agency said Tuesday, quoting reports from the South Ossetian parliament.

The peacekeeping force, which will set up a buffer zone between the warring sides, consists of 800 soldiers — 200 each from Russians, Georgia, South Ossetia and North Ossetia. Another 900 troops were being kept in reserve.

Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze said the arrival of the peacekeepers was crucial. "If the conflict is not settled this time, our prestige in the world will drop again," he said.

Mr. Shevardnadze said 42 observation posts will be set up in the buffer zone and an international Press centre will be established. "We hope it will provide

objective information," he said.

Intervention in the South Ossetian conflict could be a preview for actions by a separate, larger peacekeeping force founded last week by the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Russian officials said Monday that Commonwealth foreign ministers will meet in Uzbekistan Wednesday to complete details of the Commonwealth force and plan its first intervention, the Interfax News Agency said.

The Commonwealth force was expected to make its first foray in the separatist Trans-Dniester region of eastern Moldova by the end of July.

More than 600 people have died in four months of fighting over the thin strip of rich farmland and factories in the south-western corner of the former Soviet Union. The mainly Russian-speaking Slavic population wants to secede from Moldova and its ethnic Romanian majority.

In fighting Monday night, the two sides exchanged gunfire in the separatist town of Bender, ITAR-TASS said. One separatist was killed and four Moldovan policemen were wounded, the news agency said.

Meanwhile five people were reported killed in overnight shelling by Azerbaijani forces of the southern Armenian town of Kapan, an Interior Ministry official said Tuesday. Armenia and Azerbaijan have been waging a 4-year war for control of Nagorno-Karabakh, a mainly Armenian enclave inside Azerbaijan.

## Vietnam aborts democratic election experiment

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam (R) — Communist Vietnam has given voters new freedom to grill candidates running for the National Assembly but virtually aborted a plan to throw the election open to independent candidates.

Voters have spent long sessions in recent weeks complaining to candidates running in the July 19 election about the state's inability to halt corruption, unemployment, smuggling and the disintegration of social services.

"The old people ask about their pensions. The young people ask how we're going to stop corruption, to restore discipline, to create jobs," Nguyen Thi Nu, a 63-year-old candidate in Ho Chi Minh City told journalists Monday.

There are 601 candidates running for the 395 seats in the National Assembly, which has been ruling in recent years from the rubber stamp into a more independent legislature. Assembly elections are held every five years.

In the past, candidates had to be sponsored by the fatherland front, an official umbrella body for organisations representing women, workers, young people, ethnic minorities, religions and other groups.

But a law passed in April makes it possible for individuals to propose themselves as candidates or to be proposed by colleagues.

Forty-two such independents stepped forward but all except two have either been disqualified or have withdrawn their candidacy. Assembly officials said Tuesday.

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam's commercial centre and formerly called Saigon, had the largest number of independent candidates with 11.

City authorities said Monday voters in the districts being contested by the 11 independents found all unqualified and that six subsequently withdrew while the other five were disqualified.

## Japan voter apathy is helping LDP

TOKYO (R) — "They're all corrupt, every one," said an irate Japanese drinker in a bar near Tokyo.

"I don't feel like voting for any of them, do you?" he said, nudging his neighbour for approval. Japan's coming national elections might have provided an important gauge of voter sentiment on major questions for the 1990s, such as Japan's future global role.

Instead public apathy over politics in general, unmoved by a lacklustre campaign, seems likely to keep many people at home on July 26, when Japanese vote to renew half the members of the 252-seat upper house.

If that proves to be the case, experts say, the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will be the beneficiary.

The LDP's hold on power is not at stake this time round. The conservative, pro-business party has a stable majority in the more powerful lower house.

Yet commentators believe there is little chance it will be the target of any widespread protest vote, such as it faced in 1989.

## Deputies warn Yeltsin not to yield islands to Japan

MOSCOW (R) — A group of Communist and nationalist deputies told President Boris Yeltsin Tuesday he risked unleashing World War III if he returned disputed islands to Japan.

The deputies accused unnamed presidential aides of trying to persuade Mr. Yeltsin to give up two out of four islands seized by Moscow at the end of World War II. Russia calls them southern Kurile Islands while Japan refers to them as the Northern Territories.

"Reviewing the results of World War II could push the peoples of the world towards World War III," wrote 52 deputies in an open letter to Mr. Yeltsin published by several conservative Russian newspapers.

"It is immoral to deprive Russia of part of its territory without the knowledge of parliament and a popular referendum. It is a criminal violation of the constitution."

The deputies, including militant nationalist Iona Andronov and Gennady Soyenko, co-ordinator of the Communist parliamentary faction, said a number of countries could use the issue to raise their territorial claims to Russia.

Russia currently includes areas of territory that before the war belonged to Germany, Finland and Estonia.

The dispute over the four is-

lands has effectively stalled cooperation between Russia, successor to the Soviet Union, and Japan. Tokyo says it can render much-needed economic aid only after return of the islands.

Mr. Yeltsin told last week's meeting of the group seven (G7) richest countries the dispute was a bilateral issue between Russia and Japan and would be discussed during his visit to Tokyo this September.

Mr. Yeltsin has outlined a five-stage 20-year plan for closer links between the Kuriles and Japan, but has never explicitly suggested any return of the territories. Residents of the Russian Far East have frequently accused the president of preparing a self-out of the islands.

Meanwhile, Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe plans to visit Moscow before Mr. Yeltsin comes to Japan in mid-September, a Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman told reporters.

Mr. Watanabe, who returned to work Monday after a gallstone operation in early June, will hold talks with his Russian counterpart, Andrei Kozyrev, to lay the groundwork for Mr. Yeltsin's visit, the spokesman said.

"The timing is not decided yet. Mr. Watanabe is very eager to go," he said. Mr. Watanabe currently returns to hospital each night after work.

## U.S. ship threatens to shoot down Australian plane

CANBERRA (R) — A U.S. Navy warship threatened Tuesday to shoot down an Australian airliner with more than 300 passengers aboard in a bizarre drama over the Pacific.

The pilot of Qantas flight QF12, an hour out of Los Angeles en route to Sydney, was jolted by a call from the warship saying he faced "hostile action" if the aircraft did not quit the area, a Qantas spokesman said.

The U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbour later identified the ship as the USS Cowpens, the same class of Aegis missile cruiser as the USS Vincennes which shot down an Iranian civilian airliner in the Gulf in July 1988, killing 290 passengers and crew.

The Qantas pilot radioed the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) in Los Angeles which put him on a frequency to the warship via U.S. defence headquarters at

the Pentagon in Washington, he said.

In the anxious three-way conversation in the early hours of the morning, the FAA resolved the drama by putting the Qantas flight on a path bypassing the Cowpens which was taking part in a military exercise.

Elly Brekke, spokeswoman for the FAA in Los Angeles, confirmed that the airliner, following its predetermined flight path, was told it risked facing hostile action.

Mr. Brekke said the Pentagon informed the FAA that the navy was merely conducting a voice exercise, and the Qantas flight was in no danger.

Mr. Brekke said the Qantas flight was "where it should have been", and the FAA did not have information that the U.S. Navy was conducting manoeuvres that would require restricted airspace.

Mr. Brekke said the FAA was investigating the incident, and said the preliminary investigation showed no fault on the part of the pilot or air traffic controllers.

"It appears to be either confusion or miscommunication," Mr. Brekke said.

The Pacific Fleet spokesman said the Cowpens had inadvertently used "an international distress frequency" in trying to contact planes taking part in the exercise.

"We're looking into how it happened," Commander Jim Kudla said. He also said the exercise commander had taken measures to ensure the incident would not happen again.

Commander Kudla said the purpose of the exercise was to test radar and radio equipment and did not involve the use of weapons.

In Sydney, Qantas spokesman Ken Boys said the airline was told that the navy had in fact not intended that the pilot hear the message.

He said the Cowpens believed it was sending a warning message to an aircraft in the "Rimex 92" exercise, which involves 45 ships, 200 aircraft sail from the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia and South Korea.

A spokesman for the U.S. embassy in Canberra, said: "It's my understanding in these exercises that they are not using live ammunition, so I think was just a matter of a communications problem."

"It's something they would want to look into and see that it doesn't happen again," the embassy spokesman added.

Flight QF12 landed safely in Sydney.

## COLUMN

### Carson signs deal for new shows

LOS ANGELES (R) — Less than two months after he abdicated as king of the late-night talk shows, Johnny Carson signed a contract that will put him back on television, the NBC Television Network said. Mr. Carson, who for three decades ruled late-night television as host of The Tonight Show, has signed a multi-year contract "to star in and/or develop a variety of original programmes for the network," NBC said in a statement. "We are thrilled to have Johnny back with NBC and have the opportunity to work with him on his first television project since he stepped down as host of The Tonight Show," the network said. Mr. Carson retired as The Tonight Show boss on May 22 in a final broadcast that was seen by more than 43 million viewers nationwide. He was succeeded by comedian Jay Leno, who had frequently been a stand-in for Mr. Carson. Mr. Carson won six Emmy Awards in his years as host of the popular show that featured a mixture of comedy, conversation and music with celebrities.

### 13-year-old to edit U.K.'s popular daily

LONDON (R) — A 13-year-old boy who has just become Britain's youngest university graduate takes over as editor of the Sun, the nation's biggest-selling newspaper. Ganesh Sittampalam stunned the academic world by winning a first-class mathematics degree. The tabloid is to try out his skills by appointing him editor — just for the day. "It will make a change to have some brains around the Sun newsroom," said Gus Fischer, an executive of News International which owns the Sun. The Sun uses a mix of self-promoting stunts, competitions and photos of bare-breasted women alongside its news stories to keep up its sales of 3.5 million copies daily.

### Madonna closes deal on Miami mansion

MIAMI (R) — Madonna has finally bought the elegant waterfront Miami home she has been eyeing for several months at a record price of nearly \$5 million. Citing legal documents related to the sale, the Miami Review, a local business and law publication, said the \$4.9 million price tag was the highest ever paid for a Dade County home. The former owners got a record profit of nearly \$2.8 million for the house they purchased in August 1988. The entertainer first saw the property last spring during a photo shoot here, when she posed topless riding a bicycle in front of the house. The photos were taken for a book on her sexual fantasies. The six-bedroom Mediterranean-style home sits on a strip of land on Biscayne Bay that was known as Millionaire's Row during the early part of this century.

### Swiss army sells off old gear — at one franc a piece

BERNE (R) — The Swiss army, whose numbers have been cut by a third, said it would sell off 500 tonnes of old berets, tunics and trousers at one franc (\$0.74) a piece — not all of them washed. Army coats come a little dearer, at five francs (\$3.7) a time. The Defence Ministry said in a statement the summer clear-out partly reflected the reduced number of soldiers, but was also needed to clear storage space for new uniforms.

### Thai poultrymen cry foul over kill fees

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand's poultry farmers are in a flap over an Interior Ministry plan to make them pay tax for each of the 600 million chickens, ducks and geese they slaughter each year. A recent law, the livestock slaughter control and meat trading act, gives the Interior Ministry the power to charge slaughter fees and it is apparently about to impose them on poultry, the Bangkok Post reported. The fees net the ministry 250 million baht (\$10 million) a year by charging farmers 0.10 baht to slaughter each bird, 0.10 baht as a shed fee and surcharges of 0.40 baht, 0.60 baht and 1.10 baht for each chicken, duck or goose, it said. Thai Feedmill Association President Tim Phannasiri said he would ask the ministry to reconsider the policy which he claimed would damage the country's multi-million dollar poultry export industry. Up to now the Interior Ministry has taxed only pig kills.